



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

September 20, 2016

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1356983-000
Subject: RORTY, JAMES HANCOCK

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 149 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Documents or information referred to other Government agencies were not included in this release.

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.


For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under “Contact Us.” The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1356983-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2
Page 54 ~ Duplicate;
Page 163 ~ Referral/Direct;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1344066-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2
Page 54 ~ Duplicate;
Page 163 ~ Referral/Direct;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

YELLOW FILE
COPY

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE No. 123-7248

RECORDED - 131

Date: DECEMBER 12, 1950

AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY

To: SAC, NEW YORK

From: J. Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka,
JAMES RORTY, JAMES H. RORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC LAW 402, 80TH CONGRESS
VOICE OF AMERICA

You are requested to conduct an investigation of the above named individual. The instructions contained in Section 103, Volume 3 of the Manual of Instructions and Chapter 78, Part 3 of the FBI Handbook should be observed in connection with this investigation. This case is to be assigned immediately and reports of the complete investigation must be submitted Air Mail, Special Delivery, where proper, by DECEMBER 26, 1950.

Address: Flatbrookville,
New Jersey

Birth date: March 30, 1890

Birthplace: Middletown, N. Y.

NEW YORK

Refer to Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated 11-23-48 captioned "Compic, Internal Security-C, a copy of which was designated for your office."
(100-138754-399)

Refer to page 3 of the report of SA Frank L. Price dated 2-11-42 at New York in case entitled, "Will John Lever, Office of Production Management, Internal Security, Hatch Act"- your file 101-100.
(100-32522-12)

The October, 1948 issue of "Plain Talk" starting on page 45 carries an article entitled, "Operation Donald Duck"- and "How to Beat It", by James Rorty. Review this article for pertinent information.
(94-36511-85)

Refer to New York letter to the Bureau of 3-16-49 captioned, "Jahan", your file 65-14920 which sets forth information concerning James Rorty obtained from Whittaker Chambers.

(74-1333-2716)

Enclosures: CC- WASHINGTON FIELD (74) (S)

~~SAN FRANCISCO (74) (ASD)~~

~~BOSTON (74) (ASD)~~

~~INDIANAPOLIS (74) (ASD)~~

~~SAN FRANCISCO (74) (ASD)~~

MEMPHIS (74) (S)
NEW HAVEN (74) (ASD)
CHICAGO (74) (ASD)
ST. LOUIS (74) (ASD)

FORM 79
SENT CSC
LSK:EAM

DEC 17 1950

VMS

LSK

LSK

YELLOW FILE COPY

PAGE TWO

Refer to page 2 of the report of SA George J. Starr dated 10-26-39 at New York in case entitled, "Unnumbered (A Publication) Pacifist Publication", your file 61-585.

(61-7608-5)

Refer to page 5 of the report of SA Herman C. Bly dated 3-13-44 at New York in case entitled "Joseph Freeman, was, Internal Security -C", your file 100-586577.

(100-287275-1)

Refer to New York letter to the Bureau dated 8-15-38 captioned "Re: Subversive activities-General", your file 61-507. This letter transmitted a copy of a circular letter on which appears the name James Rorty.

(61-75592578)

Refer to New York letter to the Bureau dated 8-15-38 captioned "Re: Subversive Activities-General" which transmitted a copy of circular letter date 8-1-38 soliciting financial support in making a fund of \$200 for the repatriation of Russian Blackwell. The name James Rorty appears as a signer of this letter. You are advised that the name James Rorty is signed as treasurer on a letter headed "American Labor Aid" in 1940.

A news item appearing in the New York Times of February 21, 1938 reflected that one hundred prominent citizens had joined the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred E. Real who was serving a 17 to 20 years sentence on a murder charge growing out of the Gastonia textile workers strike in 1929.

(61-7559-239X2)

Refer to pages 3,4 of New York letter to the Bureau dated 3-17-48 captioned "Compie, Internal Security -C", your file 100-50870.

(100-138754-414)

Refer to page 11 of the report of SA Stanley J. Grabowski dated 9-9-43 at New York in case entitled, "Civil Rights Defense Committee", your file 100-13811.

Refer to page 11 of the report of SA F. H. Schmidt dated 1-29-41 at Chicago in case entitled, "National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners, aka, National Committee for Peoples Rights", a copy of which was designated for your office.

(100-7685-18)

Refer to page 4 of the report of SA L.O. Halsey dated 3-2-41 at Boston in case entitled, "Workers Defense League, Internal Security", a copy of which was designated for your office.

(100-5557-81)

Refer to page 37 of the report of SA Richard H. Franke dated 11-5-42 at New York in case entitled, "Astorg Trading Corporation, Espionage CR)", your file 65-7471.

(61-5381-1682)

Refer to page 3 of the report of SA W. Paul McWhorter dated 11-11-44 at New York in case entitled, "Post War World Council, Internal Security -X", your file 100-27277.

(100-273014-8)

Refer to page 7 of the report of SA Thomas Hewitt Moore, Jr. dated 1-6-45 at New York in case entitled, "Joseph Freeman Was, Internal Security-C", your file 100-58657.

(100-287275-11)

PAGE THREE

James Rorty is reported by a Confidential Informant to be the author of the following articles, "Where Life is Better", "American Medicine Mobilizes"; and others. Publications not know.

In 1938 the name James Rorty appeared as one of many writers for the "Keep America out of War Committee".

In 1944 James Rorty was reported as author of an article entitled, "Brother Jim Crow", allegedly published by the "Post War World Council".
(100-273014)

A copy of a solicitation letter dated 11-8-37 reflects that James Rorty along with Max Eastman, Louis M. Hacker, Sidney Hook, Meyer Schapiro and James T. Farrell was affiliated with Pioneer Publishers. Checks your indices regarding this reported non-commercial publisher.

A handbill in possession of the Bureau reflects that on March 18, 1938 there was to be a "Mass Rally against the coming War" at Manhattan Plaza, 66 E. 4th St. New York. The speakers were set forth as, "Maurice Spector, co-editor New International"; James Burnham prof. of philosophy-N.Y.U.; "James Casey, former editor of the Daily Worker"; James Rorty, writer; "Nathan Gould, Natl Organizer, Y.P.S.L." The Handbill stated that the rally was under the auspices of the "Socialist Workers Party", 116 University Place, N.Y.C.
(61-7567-60)

Refer to New York letter to the Bureau date 4-17-26 captioned, "Re: Communist Activities, New York file #61-3".
(61-4478-77)

A Circular letter dated 9-25-40 carrying the letter head "New York Committee, Keep America Out of War Congress", 22 East 17th Street, New York City, lists among others a James Rorty as a member of the New York Council.
(61-10123-18)

The Bureau's files reflect that an application for original entry under the title "New Masses" was made on April 8, 1926 with the Post Office Dept. by Ruth Stout, Business Manager, New Masses, Inc. The following individuals were listed as owners or holders of 1% or more of the stock; Ruth Stout, Maurice Becker, John Don Passes, Joseph Freeman, Michael Gold, Paxton Hibben, Freda Kirchwey, James Rorty, Rex Stout, Edmund Arens, Helen Black, Robert Dunn.
(100-355177)

The Bureau's files reflect that in 1932 James Rorty was listed among others as a contributing editor to the "Student Review", a Publication of the "National Student League", 13 West 17th Street, New York City.
(61-7497-365)

The Bureau's files contain a photostatic copy of a circular letter dated 7-7-36 carrying the letterhead "The Socialist Call", official Campaign Weekly. James Rorty, among others is listed as a contributor to this publication.
(61-626-224)

Do not contact "The Nation" or the "New Masses". Verify applicant's employment with these publications from other sources. Do not contact William Sloane Associates.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR INCUMBENT EMPLOYEES AND APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT WHERE INVESTIGATION IS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AS REQUIRED IN SEC. 1001, PUBLIC LAW 402, 80th CONGRESS

1. FULL NAME
(initials and abridgements of full name are not acceptable)MR (First) (Middle) (Maiden, if any) (Last)
MRS Mr. James Hancock RORTY
MISS (not used)

2. PLACE OF BIRTH

Middletown, N.Y.

DATE OF BIRTH

March 30, 1890

3. CITIZEN:

☒ YES☐ NO

IF NATURALIZED:

DATE OF NATURALIZATION

NUMBER

PLACE OF NATURALIZATION

4. EDUCATION (Circle highest grade completed):

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

MARK (X) THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO INDICATE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF:

☐ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ☐ JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL☒ SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

(A) GIVE NAME AND LOCATION OF LAST HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Middletown, N.Y.

(B) SUBJECTS STUDIED IN HIGH SCHOOL WHICH APPLY TO POSITION DESIRED

(C) NAME AND LOCATION OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

MAJOR AND SPECIALTY

DATES ATTENDED

YEARS COMPLETED

DEGREES CONFERRED

SEMESTER HOURS CREDIT

FROM

TO

DAY

NIGHT

TITLE

DATE

Tufts College

English

1909

1913

x

A.B.

1913

Medford, Mass.

History

5. COMPLETE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

DATES	TITLE OF POSITION	EMPLOYER	ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER
1946-49	Consultant	TVA	Knoxville, Tenn.
1934-36	Correspondent	N.Y. Post and The Nation	N.Y.C.
1924-26	Editor	New Masses	N.Y.C.
1920-24	Copy Writer	McCann Co.	San Francisco, Cal.
1919-20	Publicity Sec.	Natl. Org. for Public Health Nursing	
1913-17	Copy Writer	McCann Co.	
1926-30	Copy Writer	Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn	N.Y.C.
1930 to date -	self-employed free lance writer - Publishers:-	William Sloane Assoc.	
	MacMillan, John Day Co., W.W. Norton, Prentice Hall;	N.Y.C.	

Other employers:- Henry Hawes, Eric Hodgins, Fortune Magazine, Victor Lindlehr.

6. DATES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE FOR LAST 10 YEARS

DATE	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY
1949-50		Flatbrookville	New Jersey
(April) 1950 (Jan)	Chelsea Hotel 222 W. 23rd St.	New York	N.Y.
1948-49	KxxxxxxPark	Norris Park	Tenn.
1947-48		Norris Park	Tenn.
1946-47	Oak Road	Norris Park	Tenn.
1946		Norris Park	Tenn.
1945-46		Flatbrookville (OVER)	New Jc

PAGE FOUR

You have previously been instructed as to the manner in which reference SOL LEVITAS, Editor of the New Leader, should be interviewed. Mr. Levitas of course, should be interviewed by a mature, experienced Special Agent.

You should check your indices prior to interview with the following references; Robert Morris, Lawyer; Sidney Hook, Professor; and Elliot Cohen, editor of "Commentary". If your files contain information which would indicate that interviews with any of these references would be unwise, of course, the interview should not be conducted.

WASHINGTON FIELD

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of two reports relating to the "Hunger March Incidents" which occurred in Washington, D. C. in 1932. One report covers December 5, 6 of 1932. The other report is dated December 5, 1932. Pertinent portions of these reports should be incorporated in your current report. The information should be attributed to a confidential Informant.

(61-6699-386) (961-6699-380)

The name James Rorty appears in Dies Committee Report #1, pages 380, 530.

SAN DIEGO

Applicant lists an arrest for Vagrancy at El Centro, California, in March of 1943. He states he was released the morning following the arrest and that that arrest was made during depression strikes in the Imperial Valley. It appears that the year 1943 is a typographical error and that the year of arrest was more likely 1934. Secure the details concerning this arrest.

BOSTON

Applicant claims that in May of 1927 he was arrested in Boston, Massachusetts for disorderly conduct; disposition, released. Secure the details of this arrest.

NEW HAVEN

Isaac Don Levine should be interviewed by a mature, experienced Special Agent providing your files contain no information which would indicate such an interview to be unwise.

ALL OFFICES

This case is to be assigned only to mature, experienced Special Agents who should be circumspect in conducting their interviews. Persons interviewed should be informed that applicant is being investigated by this Bureau inasmuch as he has applied for a position with the Voice of America Section of the State Dept.

b6
b7C

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

RECEIVED
FEB 25 1951

FEB 25 1951

TELETYPE

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO

2-25-51

2-27 PM

WN

DIRECTOR, FBI

DEFERRED

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA. B VOA. BUFILE ONE TWENTY THREE DASH
SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT. REPORT SUBMITTED AMSD TODAY.

KIMBALL

END ACK PLS

5-27 PM OK FBI WASH DC GAR

0

RECORDED - 79

123-7248-2

MAR 13 1951

EX-6

16

66 MAR 15 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: 1/11/51

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: SAC, New York

James Rorty, AKA

CHARACTER OF CASE: 10A

DEADLINE DATE: 12/26/50

This case will be delinquent because extensive investigation into background required. - because of derogatory information.

Report will reach the Bureau by the following date: 1/20/51

BUR. FILE # 123-7248

N.Y. FILE # 123-4919

123-7248-✓

NOT RECORDED

157 MAR 26 1951

RECEIVED INQUIRY SECTION

MAR 13 8 43 AM '51

RECEIVED FBI

55 APR 9 1951

4-22

S: Rarity, James 1189834

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# 409 Date 11-22 Searcher Initial 65

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

NOV 29 1950

Rarity, James

D.C. Rpt #1, p#380, 538, 694 ✓

✓ D.C. Rpt #4, p#2113,

D.C. Rpt W. Stud #1, p#1, 226, 390, ✓

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

p#47, Appendix A

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

p#45; 2380, ✓

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

~~61-7561-230, 312, 314~~

4-22

S: _____ 804

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date 11-22 Searcher Initial 15

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

Rarity, James

100-5557-114X, 145

~~100-287215-1, 145~~

~~61-7562-292X14~~

~~61-7558-148X6, ✓~~

~~61-7567-60, ✓~~

~~61-7561-230, ✓~~

~~100-3-64~~

~~61-7562-312X2~~

~~74-1333-2916~~

~~61-7559-1017, 1534~~

~~2070X3, 2345X, 2878X~~

~~61-7608-5, ✓~~

~~74-1333-3220, encl.~~

p#248

~~100-355177-1, ✓~~

4-22

S: _____ 8985

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date 11-22 Searcher Initial 65

FILE NUMBERSERIALS

Patty, James

~~61-19123-1850~~ *be good*

~~100-7685-18~~ *54 54 54*

~~120-5557-84~~ *120 173*

~~100-138151-41~~ *✓*

~~61-9182-35~~ *✓*

~~61-626-224~~ *✓*

~~61-7197-305~~ *✓*

~~61-5381-1682~~ *✓ ✓*

~~100-16-54-3~~ *✓*

~~100-16-16-2~~ *#52 ✓*

~~100-5557-165~~ *✓ ✓*

~~100-37551-12~~ *✓ ✓*

~~123-2337-33~~ *#30 ✓*

~~100-37551-161~~ *✓ ✓*

~~100-130151-377~~ *be good ✓*

4-22

S: _____ 8986

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date 11-22 Searcher Initial 65

FILE NUMBERSERIALS

Patty, James

~~100-21501-55~~ *✓*

~~100-5557-171~~ *✓*

~~100-37551-12~~ *✓*

Arrest Record

8987

James H. Rorty

March, 1943 ^{San 1934} vagrancy El Centro, Calif. Released next
mornig

(Arrest made during depression strikes in Imperial Valley
SD

May, 1927 disorderly conduct Boston, Mass. Released

BS

8989

Jh

FBI LOS ANGELES

6:12 pm

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

DEFERRED

2/27/51

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA VOA.

REBUFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT, YOUR LET TWO
TWENTYTHREE LAST. NORMAN MINI MAY BE CONTACTED AT TWO TWO ONE
EIGHT D BANCROFT WAY, BERKELEY UNTIL THREE THREE NEXT. RUC LA.

HOOD

RE: JLB
123-1544

cc: Bureau (AMSD)

123-7248
NOT RECORDED
8 MAR 1 1951

56 APR 10 1951

K
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
January 8, 1951

MIAMI, URGENT *Deferred*

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA JAM'S RORTY, JAMES H. RORTY DASH VOA. BUFILE ONE
TWENTY THREE DASH SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT, BULET TO NY, DECEMBER TWELVE LAST.
ERIC HODGINS, FOR WHOM APPLICANT DID FREE LANCE WORK IN RECENT YEARS, ON
LEAVE FROM FORTUNE MAGAZINE, NYC, AND IS RESIDING THREE THREE FOUR ILLTHAW
DRIVE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA. VICTOR LINDLAHR, FOR WHOM APPLICANT ALSO DID
FREE LANCE WORK, NOW LOCATED TWO ONE ONE NORTH COCONUT LANE, PALM ISLAND,
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA. FOR INFO, APPLICANT IN THIRTIES, WAS NON-CONFORMIST
AND RADICAL AFFILIATED WITH NUMEROUS LEFT WING ORGANIZATIONS. HANDLE.
BUDTD DECEMBER TWENTY SIXTH LAST.

SCHEIDT

cc: Bureau

BBJ:GIL
123-4919 (Sect. #11)

123-4919-11
123-4919-11

101
New York, NY
January 5, 1951

NEW HAVEN.....DEFERRED

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA; VOA.REBUFILE ONE TWENTY THREE DASH SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT AND NEW HAVEN TEL TO NY DECEMBER TWENTY NINE. APPLICANT RESIDED DURING SUMMERS OF NINETEEN TWENTIES AND THIRTIES, SPECIFIC TIME NOT KNOWN, AT WESTPORT, CONN. RD ONE; PHONE TRUMBALL TWO EIGHT FOUR. RING THIRTEEN. FOR INFO, APPLICANT BORN MARCH THIRTY, EIGHTEEN NINETY. WIFE'S NAME WINIFRED. APPLICANT WAS EDITOR QUOTE NEW MASSES UNQUOTE, TWENTY FOUR DASH TWENTY SIX; COPYRIGHTER FOR ADVERTISING AGENCY, NINETEEN TWENTY SIX TO THIRTY; HAS BEEN FREE LANCE WRITER SINCE NINETEEN THIRTY. IN NINETEEN TWENTIES AND THIRTIES WAS NON CONFORMIST AND RADICAL, AFFILIATED WITH NUMEROUS LEFTWING ORGANIZATIONS. NO INFO RE OPERATIONS IN CONNECTICUT.

- SCHEIDT

cc: Bureau

JBB:mxm (#11)
123-4919

11
JAN 9 1951

123-4919-101

332

SAC, NEW YORK

December 26, 1950

SAC, SAN DIEGO

(AMSD)

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka
SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC LAW 402, 80th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA

Rebulet dated December 12, 1950.

There are being transmitted with this letter photostatic copies of several letters or documents obtained on February 26, 1935, at El Centro, California, at the time this applicant was arrested and held for investigation.

The New York Office will review its indices and set out any data available on the "COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA", COOPERATIVE DISTRIBUTORS, and NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE. If deemed advisable, New York will conduct interviews to determine the extent and connections of the applicant with these various organizations.

The New Haven Office will conduct such investigation as is necessary to place the applicant in Westport, Connecticut, in May, 1934.

The San Francisco Office will review its indices concerning the NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE, Room 429 Mills Building, San Francisco, and JAMES RORTY, 1200 Washington Street, San Francisco, California, and conduct such interviews and investigation as is deemed advisable in instant matter

RJD:LM
123-297

CC: Bureau (123-7248)(AMSD) ✓
New Haven (AMSD) encl.
San Francisco (AMSD) encl.

RECEIVED
DEC 29 1950
FBI

RECEIVED FBI

60 DAYS

OK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

0-9a

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

12-18-60

SAC SAN DIEGO

DEFERRED

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, VOA. REBULET DECEMBER TWELVE LAST. APPLICANT
ARRESTED AS JAMES RORTY ON CHARGE INVESTIGATION AN FEBRUARY TWENTY SIX
NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE BY SHERRIF'S OFFICE.
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA. THEIR ARREST NUMBER TWO NINE TWO NINE ZERO.
FBI NUMBER FIVE SIX EIGHT TWO ONE FOUR A.

HOOVER

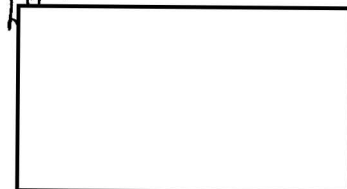
BUFILE 123-7248

LSK:MEP *mlp*
Form 79 CSO

RECORDED - 27

123-7248-3
MAR 28 1951
79

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____



60 APR 9 1951

SENT VIA

9:23 PM

Per

LSK.

FBI WASH DC

12-18-50

9-23 PM

SMS

SAC SAN DIEGO DEFERRED

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, VOA. REBULET DECEMBER TWELVE LAST. APPLICANT
ARRESTED AS JAMES RORTY ON CHARGE INVESTIGATION ON FEBRUARY TWENTY SIX
NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE BY SHERIF-S OFFICE, EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA. THEIR
ARREST NUMBER TWO NINE TWO NINE ZERO. FBI NUMBER FIVE SIX EIGHT TWO ONE
FOUR A.

HOOVER

END ACK PLS

FBI
OK SD WJJVB

ACK AGIN

~~1~~
~~MAR 26 1951~~
~~79~~

WAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

December 14, 1950

WAC, NEW HAVEN

(
JAMES MANSCOCK FORTY, aka
JAMES FORTY, JAMES H. FORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC LAW 402, 80TH CONGRESS
VOICE OF AMERICA
(Bufile 123-7243)

Rebulet of December 12, 1950, to New York.

The specific lead for the New Haven Office is that "Isaac Don Levine should be interviewed by a mature, experienced Special Agent."

It is noted that LEVINE'S address is listed as RFD 2, Norwalk, Connecticut. He is shown as a writer and editor, and is a reference for the applicant.

The present address of ISAAC DON LEVINE is 3029 Cambridge Place, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

Handle. RUC.

FWM:IM

123-0

cc: Bureau

100-889

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO.

123-1173

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE 12/19/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/15-16/50	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM D. WHITNEY-bl
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA, JAMES RORTY, JAMES H. RORTY			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC LAW 402, 80TH CONGRESS VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

San Francisco City Directory reflects McCann Company no longer in business, San Francisco, California. Applicant and wife have no credit or criminal record San Francisco or Berkeley, California.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to New York dated 12/12/50

DETAILS:

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

A check of Folk's City Directory for San Francisco, 1924, reflects that the applicant was employed by the McCann Company at Berkeley, California. The Folk City Directory of 1930 fails to reflect any notation of McCann Company being in business either in San Francisco or in Berkeley, California.

A check at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce reflected that McCann Company was unknown to them.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL:

The applicant and his wife have no credit record at the San Francisco Retailers Credit Association, or the Alameda County Retailers Credit Association in Oakland, California.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Harry M. Kunkel</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau (AMSD) (123-7248) 1 San Francisco	123-7248	4
	RECORDED - 27	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

S. F. 123-1173

The applicant and his wife have no criminal record
at the San Francisco or Oakland, California Police Departments.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :
FROM : *JH* Director, FBI
SUBJECT: *JH* SAC, New York

DATE: 12/22/50

O
JAMES HANCOCK RORTY

CHARACTER OF CASE: VOA

DEADLINE DATE: 12/26/50

This case will be delinquent because of scope of investigation required -- derogatory background - residences not known etc.

Report will reach the Bureau by the following date: 1/10/51

BUR. FILE # 123-7248
N.Y. FILE # 123-4919

123-7248-*file*
NOT RECORDED
15 MAR 26 1951
b
W

60 APR 9 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Bureau

FILE NO. 123-2562

REPORT MADE AT St. Louis, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 12-22-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-20-50	REPORT MADE BY G. B. NORRIS, SAC BCK:mr
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka, James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The records of DPRB, AGO, Department of the Army, St. Louis, Missouri, indicate JAMES H. RORTY, ASN 10398, in U. S. Army 6-9-17 to 6-5-19. Honorably discharged as Private by reason of demobilization. No derogatory information. Born 3-30-90 at Middletown, New York.

- RUC -

Reference: Bufile 123-7248.
Bureau letter to New York dated 12-12-50.

Details: AT SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

A review of the Army service record on file at World War I Unit, Demobilized Personnel Records Branch, Adjutant General's Office, Department of the Army, for JAMES H. RORTY, ASN 10398, indicates that he enlisted in the U. S. Army on June 9, 1917, at New York City, New York. He was honorably discharged on June 5, 1919, as a Private from the Ambulance Service, Camp Dix, New Jersey, by reason of demobilization. His military occupation was listed as Driver and civilian occupation as Advertising Copy Writer. He served from December 26, 1917, to May 28, 1919, in foreign service in France and participated in the battles and campaigns of Toul Sector, Seicheprey, Xivray, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne. He was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal and Distinguished Service Cross.

His character and efficiency ratings ranged from unknown to excellent. There is no record of courts-martial, AWOLs, or derogatory information. The date and place of birth were shown as March 30, 1890, at Middletown, New York.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - St. Louis		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 123-7248-5 RECORDED - 27 DEC 26 1950 </div>

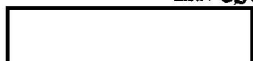
PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

b6
b7C

SL 123-2562

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

Investigation in this case was conducted by Special Employee



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b6
b7C

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO. 123-158

REPORT MADE AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE	DATE WHEN MADE 12-22-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-18, 20, 21, 22/50	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA, JAMES RORTY, JAMES H. RORTY			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC LAW 402, CONGRESS (VOICE OF AMERICA)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Employment as Consultant, TVA, 1946-48, verified and favorable. Residence, Norris, Tenn., verified and nothing unfavorable developed. No credit or criminal record, Knoxville or Anderson County, Tenn.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to New York dated December 12, 1950.
DETAILS: AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

Mrs. EVA LEE ROBBINS, Personnel, Tennessee Valley Authority, advised that her records reflect that JAMES HANCOCK RORTY was engaged as a Consultant for a period of one year, beginning April 1, 1946. His services were utilized in connection with the preparation of educational material concerning the Tennessee Valley Authority program of Agricultural Development and Watershed Protection. On January 1, 1947, a supplemental contract was entered into for a period of one year, at which time RORTY's residence was officially changed to Knoxville. On December 31, 1947, his contract was extended for one calendar year and was not renewed upon expiration of his contract. According to his employment record, he was entirely satisfactory and there was nothing unfavorable therein. His birth data was verified from TVA records.

E. A. LAMPKE, Assistant to the Chief Conservation Engineer, Tennessee Valley Authority, advised that the work of RORTY was performed under the supervision of this office, and that he had worked directly with RORTY in the preparation of publications concerning the TVA program of Agricultural Development and Watershed Protection. LAMPKE added that in this connection, RORTY prepared publications entitled "Food at the Grass Roots" and "Soil. . . People, and Fertilizer Technology." LAMPKE stated that these publications were particularly

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">J. A. Sullivan</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ - Bureau (123-7248) (AMSD) 1 - Knoxville		123-7248-6
		DEC 26 1950 <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">J. A. Sullivan</div>
		RECORDED - 27

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

KX 123-158

comprehensive and difficult assignments and that RORTY was particularly adept at gathering material and working it into publishable form. He stated that the majority of his employment period was spent in an office adjacent to his, except for brief trips to Wilson Dam, Alabama, for the collection of material for the latter publication. LAMPKE stated that he also had occasional social contact with RORTY, who resided at Norris, Tennessee. He added, however, that RORTY was not particularly socially inclined, associated almost entirely with TVA personnel, and spent most of his time at work or in pursuing hobbies. He stated he was a very serious-minded individual of the greatest integrity of character. He considered him to be very straightforward, conscientious, strongly anti-Communist, with an above average interest in political affairs. LAMPKE also stated that he had gathered that in RORTY's line of work, he had had frequent contact with people who were pro-Communist, and that he was affected negatively in these contacts. He knew of no organizations to which RORTY would belong, stating that he was very careful concerning which organizations he would hold membership in, this, according to LAMPKE, being because of the fact that RORTY foresaw the technique of infiltration of various organizations by people who were sympathetic toward Communism. LAMPKE concluded, that he would have no hesitancy to recommend RORTY for access to information affecting the security of this country, having drawn this conclusion from the fact that when employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, RORTY was very careful to clear with the TVA before using for his purposes any information relevant to the Tennessee Valley Authority which he may have learned incidental to his work there.

Mr. and Mrs. MAX ZUBER, Emory Road, advised that they are respectively manager of Norris Park and Hostess at Norris Tea Room, and, as such, knew of the JAMES RORTYS while they resided at Norris. They stated, however, that they had no business contacts with them, knowing them only by reputation. They stated that they knew of nothing which would reflect unfavorably concerning either Mr. or Mrs. RORTY.

A. C. BIDDLE, Secretary, Knoxville Retail Credit Association, advised he had no credit record for JAMES HANCOCK RORTY.

Mrs. ESTELLE LLOYD, Clerk, Knoxville Police Department, advised she could locate no record for JAMES HANCOCK RORTY.

KX 123-158

b6
b7C

AT NORRIS, TENNESSEE.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent

[REDACTED]

Mr. JOE DeMARCUS, Office Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority, Reservoir Properties, advised his records reflect RORTY resided in Norris, as follows: Norris Park: May 16, 1946 - September 30, 1946, March 13, 1947 - September 16, 1947; also, 181 Oak Road, May 6, 1948 - August 31, 1948. DeMARCUS stated that Norris Park, a small cabin area, is now closed. He also advised that on August 31, 1948, the Town of Norris was sold and that all properties were taken over by the Norris Land Company.

DeMARCUS further advised that although he never met RORTY or any of his family, he knew of RORTY and his family when they resided in Norris. DeMARCUS stated he recalled nothing ever coming to his attention that would reflect unfavorably on the character, reputation, associates or loyalty of RORTY or his family.

Miss FRANCES SIMPSON, Secretary, Norris Land Company, advised her records reflect RORTY resided at 181 Oak Road from August 31, 1948, to June 15, 1949. SIMPSON stated she was not acquainted with RORTY.

Mrs. PERRY COTTER, housewife, 24 East Circle, advised that she sublet her home at that address to RORTY during the approximate period September 1946 to March 1947. COTTER said that she was well acquainted with RORTY during the above period and she found RORTY and his family to be people whose character, reputation and associates were good. COTTER also stated that RORTY and his wife were writers and very intelligent people, and although she never engaged in political discussions with them, she considered RORTY and his family to be loyal Americans.

Mrs. L. A. BOLLING, housewife, Box 456, advised that she rented a small farmhouse to RORTY during the approximate period June 1947 to June 1948, and that she was well acquainted with RORTY and his family during that period. BOLLING stated that RORTY and his family were brilliant individuals and that he and his wife were writers, but that they associated with very few people. BOLLING said that on the occasion of several visits to RORTY's home during the above period,

KX 123-158

she engaged in several political discussions with RORTY and his wife and from these discussions, she arrived at the opinion that if RORTY had any political leanings at all, she would classify them as "socialistic." BOLLING said that the best definition she could offer for classifying RORTY as socialistic was that he appeared to favor social equality for all classes: rich, poor and Negroes, and from other remarks he has made, the nature of which she could not recall. BOLLING stated, however, that she considered RORTY and his family to be patriotic and loyal Americans.

Mrs. BESSIE STURDEVANT, housewife, 43 West Circle, advised that she was well acquainted with RORTY and his family during the entire period they resided in the vicinity of Norris. STURDEVANT stated that RORTY and his wife worked for various publications and that RORTY has published several books. STURDEVANT said that she considered RORTY and his wife to be very intelligent and high-type people. She also stated that their associates were of the better type of people in town, and that she considered their morals and reputation to be beyond question. STURDEVANT added that she considered the loyalty of RORTY and his family to be unimpeachable. STURDEVANT described RORTY as an individual who is a deep thinker and "liberal to the water's edge," and said that he was a fighter for what he believed in. STURDEVANT said that she was unaware of RORTY's political views, but that she felt that he was definitely a liberal-thinking individual. She stated that the best she could define her classification of RORTY as a liberal was by the following illustration: STURDEVANT related that in the recent past, there was a local radio preacher named J. HAROLD SMITH, who preached and ranted over the radio and influenced illiterate people for SMITH's personal gain; also, that RORTY disliked and disapproved of SMITH's tactics so much that RORTY finally published an article in "Harper's Magazine," exposing SMITH as a selfish, unethical individual. STURDEVANT also stated that she knew that RORTY hated Communism almost to the point of his having an apoplectic stroke whenever the subject of Communism was mentioned.

The following additional individuals advised that they were acquainted with RORTY and his family during the period they resided at Norris. All stated that, to the best of their knowledge, RORTY and his family were loyal Americans and their character, reputation and associates were good:

Mr. ROGER WILLIAMS, Postmaster;
Mrs. LAWRENCE CARDEN, Postal Clerk;
Mrs. ROBERT P. MOORE, housewife, 117 Hilltop Lane;
Lieutenant LYLE HIGDON, TVA Police.

KX 123-158

All of the individuals interviewed advised that they were unaware of the membership of RORTY or his family in any organization or society, with the possible exception that they might have belonged to local social or civic groups.

Mr. ROGER WILLIAMS, Postmaster, also advised that since the Town of Norris was sold in 1948, all of RORTY's former neighbors on Oak Road and East Circle have moved from this area.

Lieutenant LYLE HIGDON, Tennessee Valley Authority Police, advised that his files do not contain a criminal record for RORTY or any member of his family.

AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE.

Mrs. HAZEL BROOKS, Deputy Clerk of the Anderson County Circuit Court, advised that her files do not contain a criminal record for RORTY or any member of his family.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

U S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DEC 22 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Neff

gss

WASH 3 FROM NEWARK

22

10-36 AM

DIRECTOR

D E F E R R E D

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA JAMES RORTY, JAMES H. RORTY, VOA. BUFILE
ONE TWO THREE DASH SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT. REBULET DECEMBER TWLEVE LAST.
SUBMISSION OF REPORT WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL DECEMBER TWENTYNINE NEXT.

MC KEE

WA PLS HFC

RECORDED - 27

113-72107
MAR 26 1951
79

gss

66 APR 10 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO. 123-297

REPORT MADE AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA	DATE WHEN MADE 12-26-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-18,19,20-50	REPORT MADE BY RICHARD J. DOYLE LM
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

RORTY's arrest on February 26, 1935, by Sheriff's Office, El Centro, California, and held for investigation. Released on February 27, 1935. Various papers, letters and documents in possession of RORTY when arrested set out.

- R U C -

AGENCY 100-1000
REC. 100-1000
REF. 100-1000
BY 100-1000

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to New York dated December 12, 1950.

DETAILS:

AT EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA:

The records of the Sheriff's Office for Imperial County, reflect the following data:

On February 26, 1935, under number #29290, there was booked into the County Jail an individual named JAMES RORTY. This person gave this data, he was 44 years of age, born in the United States, had been in the County for two days, in the State of California for two months, was a writer, and resided in the State of Connecticut. This person was held for investigation and the booking sheet had the notation on the top of the page in red ink "RED". On February 27, 1935, at 1:45 P.M. this person was released.

Sheriff ROBERT W. WARE advised that he was the Sheriff at the time of RORTY's arrest. He recalled that there existed a law of the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (123-7248) (AMSD) Encl. 1 - San Diego		8	RECORDED - 27 INDEXED - 27

PROPERTY OF FBI--THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

State of California, known as the "CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM STATUTE", and this was in effect at the time of RORTY's arrest. The Sheriff stated that his office had received reports that RORTY was a Communist and was commencing to propagandize the program of that organization. RORTY and a companion were brought to the County Jail and booked while efforts were made to establish the veracity of the allegations. When booked, an examination of the papers and effects of RORTY, found in his automobile, was made. The Sheriff stated that no proof could be obtained, that RORTY had violated the "CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM STATUTE", and he was ordered released the following day. RORTY requested protection when released and was given such protection to the time he reached the Arizona State line. Sheriff WARE advised that the year before Imperial Valley had been the scene of an intense struggle between Communist led agricultural workers and the local farmers, and that local public feeling was most explosive on the subject of Communism, and anyone who was identified with the Communist side.

There was located in the files of the Sheriff's Office, several letters and documents obtained as the result of the afore-mentioned search.

- (1) A letter with "Westport, Connecticut"
R. D. 1
May 3, 1934
Addressed to "Dear Palmer"

A paragraph number #4 reads as follows:

"Without in any way speaking for the A.W.P.-- I am a member, but not on the Provisional Organizing Committee--I may say that my own chief interest in the consumer movement is that it provides a basis for propaganda and agitation against the capitalist system. I don't think it is possible to organize consumers along class lines, and as a Marxian Revolutionary it is the development of the class struggle along Marxian lines that I am interested in."

A photographic copy of this carbon copy letter is being transmitted with this report.

- (2) A letter on the letterhead of the "COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA", 144 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. dated September 21, 1934, addressed to JAMES RORTY, Westport Connecticut.

"Dear Comrade RORTY:

Enclosed are the contracts of the Communist League throughout the country. I hope you will have the opportunity to get in touch with them.

Fraternally yours,
A. SWABECK
Secretary"

The list mentioned in the letter as well as the letter is being transmitted in photostatic copies with this report.

- (3) A printed form letter of appeal for funds on the letterhead of the NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE, Room 139, Mills Building, San Francisco, California.

This letter at the end states that this appeal has been endorsed by several persons and lists JAMES RORTY. A photostatic copy of this letter is being transmitted with this report.

- (4) A set of lecture notes of Communist nature, a report of the 13th District of the Communist Party, concerning agricultural strikes and the proceedings held on March 17, and 18, year not specified.

ENCLOSURES:

- Bureau - A photographic copy of letter addressed to "Dear Palmer"
- A photostatic copy of letter on letterhead of "COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA"
- A photostatic copy of letter on letterhead of "NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE."

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

SD 123-277

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE:

Under booking number #29289, Imperial Sheriff's Office, there was booked at the same time as ECRTY one ~~CHARLES~~ MALANOTH, who on the booking sheet was described as follows:

35 years of age, born in Poland, in the USA for 22 years, resident in Los Angeles, a writer, was 5' 11", 180 pounds, hazel eyes, black hair, no scars or marks. This person was also booked for investigation and his booking sheet also contained the notation "RED".

No additional data could be obtained from the Sheriff, or any of his deputies concerning this last named person.

123-7248-8

WHAT IS THE NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE? This organization was founded in New York City in March, 1934, by a group of writers, teachers, lawyers and others who had been active in defense of labor cases and who believed that a new organization subject to the control of no single sect in the labor movement should be set up. Since then the NPLD has engaged both in propaganda for the idea of setting up a mass organization on militant, class, non-partisan lines, and in practical defense work. It has defended workers in collaboration with the Socialist Party, Workers Party of the U.S., Il Martello Group, I.W.O., A.F. of L. unions, and has won several notable victories. Its various campaigns have been endorsed by the above-mentioned organizations, and by the Forwards Association, Workmen's Circle, Joint Board of the ILGWU (NYC), Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (NYC), United Hebrew Trades, American Civil Liberties Union, League for Industrial Democracy, Young People's Socialist League, Spartacus Youth League, etc. etc.

WHY DID THE NPLD COME TO SACRAMENTO? The NPLD sees the Sacramento case as one of national significance. Should the Communist Party of California be outlawed as a result of this case, it will, in view of the expressed intention of the reactionary pack organized by Mr. Randolph Hearst, be the signal for a nationwide drive against political radicals and militant trade unionists, which may end in the suppression or hamstringing of all working class organizations. In such a crisis, every organization has an obligation to aid the defense.

The NPLD was asked to help in Sacramento first by Norman Mini, one of the defendants, who wanted us to supervise his fight and, a few days later, to provide counsel competent and willing to argue the case along lines essential to Mini because of his political beliefs. The Bay Area Section of the Workers Party of the U.S., and its national office supported the request of Mini. In addition, Jack Warnick who is legally represented by ILD counsel, after spending six months in jail asked the NPLD to bail him out. Subsequently, Nora Conklin, also being defended by the ILD entered a similar application.

WHOM DOES THE NPLD WANT TO DEFEND? The NPLD has no desire to snatch away from the ILD the right to defend any of the prisoners now under its wing. To defend these prisoners is not a right, but a duty. From the outset our conception has been to aid the defense of all without regard to opinions or affiliations. In aiding individual prisoners, we have tried to aid all. And in aiding all we are seeking to defend the interests of the entire working class and all enemies of reaction.

HAS THE NPLD DONE ANY PRACTICAL WORK? The NPLD stands on its record, a portion of which is summarized here:

1. It dispatched a representative to the coast to send information to New York office and to take full charge of NPLD work on the coast.
2. Retained and brought from Chicago Albert Goldman, noted labor attorney, inducing him to give his services gratis. Mr. Goldman's value has already been recognized by the defendants, by Leo Gallagher of the ILD, and by many persons connected with liberal organizations.
3. Two weeks after receiving his application for \$3200 bail, the NPLD took Jack Warnick out of jail, placing no conditions upon him and enabling him to become active in the defense fight. Within a week after receiving Nora Conklin's application, the NPLD raised \$2500 toward her bail, and is now working in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York to complete the amount needed and to bring her out of the jail cell.
4. By means of its press service, the NPLD has been endeavoring to popularize the Sacramento fight in the labor movement of the Atlantic seaboard. Its news releases are completely non-factional and no suggestion can be taken to them by any organization sincerely interested in the fate of the defendants and the issues involved in Sacramento.

123-2248 8, #

5. The NPLI has sent to trade unions and other mass organizations throughout the country an appeal that they interest themselves actively in the Sacramento fight by sending to the California authorities resolutions of protest against the present persecutions and for the repeal of the criminal syndicalism law. These letters advocate the defense of all the defendants and the right of the Communist Party legally to exist and advocate its doctrines. The first results of this appeal have already begun to come in to our California representative.

6. At their request, the NPLD has supplied the prisoners with funds for the purchase of food and tobacco in the county jail.

7. At the request of one prisoner, the NPLD has obtained in New York at considerable expense and difficulty, literature needed for defense purposes. This prisoner is being defended by the I.L.D.

8. The NPLI has set on foot an independent investigation of the credibility of one of the stool-pigeons in the service of the prosecution; the fruits of this investigation, if any, will be for the common good of all the defendants.

9. The NPLD has informed the defendants and the I.L.D. that if at any time they have money toward bail and wish to combine it with the funds we have available, we are willing that the combined sum be used to bail out such defendant as may be chosen by the defendants as a whole.

10. The NPLD has used its influence with liberal editors in the East to give space to news of the Sacramento fight and to appeals for aid.

11. Our New York office is now planning a mass meeting on behalf of Sacramento with speakers from organizations hitherto inactive in this fight, including the League for Industrial Democracy, the Newspaper Guild of America, the Martello group, New York unions, etc.

WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE NPLI TOWARD THE "UNITED FRONT?" All the work of the NPLD has been carried on independently without help from other organizations. And all the activities have been such and so carried on as to benefit the entire defense movement. More than one person entirely dissociated from the NPLI has declared that since we became active in the Sacramento struggle, the situation has changed for the better from the viewpoint of the broad class interests involved.

Furthermore, ever since our entry, we have publicly and privately taken the position that we will enter any properly organized and motivated united front with the I.L.D. and other organizations. Such statements have been made by us repeatedly. On Jan. 8 we addressed a letter to this effect to Sam Darcy, District Organizer of the C.P. This letter has never been answered.

When the Northern California Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union asked the NPLD to attend a conference with members of the I.L.D., the Communist Party, and the Worker's Party, we did so. At this meeting Dr. George F. Hedley of the ACLU proposed an agreement for a united front in the courtroom. We not only accepted this agreement and carried it out, but we proposed a general united front to cover all aspects of the fight and to be organized in a manner suited to the mobilization of the highest potential forces of the labor and progressive movements in California and elsewhere. The NPLI has always been and still is ready and anxious to participate actively in an honest, fighting united front.

WHO ARE THE "DISRUPTERS" AND "RACKETEERS?" The Western Worker (Jan. 15), organ of the C.P., publishes for the I.L.D. an article which charges that unnamed parties, for purposes of racketeering and disruption, are soliciting bail funds and contributions and making false claims of representing defendants. The I.L.D. is not brave enough to name the parties it is accusing. Inasmuch, however, as certain I.L.D. members and CP sympathizers have made similar charges against the NPLI by name, an impression has been

spread that ~~the~~ ~~Western Worker~~ article refers to the NPLD. This is not the first time, in Sacramento and elsewhere, that the ILD has resorted to such tactics. The record of the NPLD, outlined in this leaflet, is beyond impeachment. In slandering us, the ILD sabotages the defense fight as a whole. The defendants know this and it is time the general working class and anti-reactionary public should know it. The NPLD points to its practical achievements, to its consistent advocacy of an honest united front, and asks: who are the disrupters and racketeers?

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE DEFENSE FIGHT? The NPLD believes that there are two important things to be done immediately. In the first place, at least the leading defendants should be bailed out. We have \$2500 ready for Nora Conklin or any other defendant indicated by the defendants as a whole. As soon as we get \$700 more in cash, we can bail out one more defendant. Help us to raise this money. If you prefer to send your bail through the ILD, do so. Instruct the ILD to combine the fund with our fund. If you can provide more than \$700, that will help still more. Send it in, either to the ILD or to the NPLD. We want the prisoners out to help in the defense fight and we do not care who gets the key to the self door as long as somebody puts it there.

The second thing of importance is the development of a mass protest campaign against the Sacramento persecution and the criminal syndicalism law in general. We are still striving to effect a united front for this purpose. When it is effected, urge any organization to which you belong to support it by giving funds, publishing news about the case and the defense fight, sending you members to protest mass meetings and demonstrations, adopting resolutions of protest for forwarding to the proper authorities.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE NPLD? We believe we are entitled to the help of all enemies of reaction regardless of their political views or affiliations. You can help us by sending us bail money, by sending us statements of sympathy and support, by giving us your services for various projects we have under way, by sending us funds. Every penny we have thus far raised in California and elsewhere has gone directly to bail or to the prisoners. Our New York office is in debt for premium on Jack Barnick's bail bond and for railroad fare for our attorney. We cannot pay all these expenses and the inescapable minimum of overhead to keep a representative in the field, operate a press service, etc. We must have help. Send us a contribution, large or small. It will be used only for the Sacramento fight and an accounting will be made to all contributors.

SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO EITHER OF THESE MEMBERS OF OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Herbert Solomon
Hotel Ramona
Sacramento.

James Rorty
1200 Washington St.
San Francisco

FOR A UNITED STRUGGLE AGAINST REACTION!
FOR THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS TO ORGANIZE!
FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE SACRAMENTO PRISONERS!
FOR THE REPEAL OF THE C.S. LAW!

NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENCE
22 East 17 Street,
New York City.
Herbert Solomon, California Representative

123-7248-9

4 /

NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE

ROOM 439, MILLS BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

February 1, 1935

Dear Friend:

This letter is sent to acquaint you with a new situation which has arisen in relation to the Sacramento criminal syndicalism defense. May we ask that you give it careful consideration.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense, hitherto active in the New York labor movement, was called into the Sacramento case by Norman Mini, one of the defendants now facing a long term in San Quentin, who was not in accord with the policies and practices of the Communist Party and the International Labor Defense.

We responded by bringing from Chicago the experienced and brilliant labor attorney, Albert Goldman, to defend Mini and to cooperate in the defense as a whole. We raised \$6,200 bail and liberated Jack Warnick and Caroline Decker after they had spent six months in the wretched Sacramento jail. We began a press campaign which has brought the Sacramento trial to public attention in other states and stimulated trade unions and other organizations to voice opposition to the persecution of workers "guilty" of organizing a union. We have arranged a mass meeting in New York at which prominent union leaders, writers and educators will speak. In many other ways we have aided the general defense cause.

On the suggestion of American Civil Liberties Union officials, conferences began several weeks ago in San Francisco, resulting in the setting up of unified defense machinery, including our organization, the ILD, several labor unions, the Socialist Party, the Workers Party of the U. S. (to which Mini belongs), and the Communist Party. An agreement was reached covering plans for a mass meeting, a publicity campaign, fund raising, the barring from court of factional issues, the calling of a broad supporting conference, etc.

The defendants were gratified to learn that they were to have the support, not merely of the usual Communist-ruled set-up of "innocent clubs" and paper organizations, but of a genuine and broad united defense which might appeal for aid to the whole labor movement and all progressive elements. Our organization carried out its obligations to this united defense in every respect.

The Communist-Party-controlled delegates, however, after repeated breaches of faith, and despite many concessions made by other groups for the sake of unity, deliberately smashed the unified defense. At a committee meeting on January 26, acting apparently on orders from New York, they violated every agreement previously made with the other delegates. This they did despite the united appeals of Dr. George P. Meadley of the Civil Liberties Union and two of the ILD's defendants who were present. A policy frankly designed to bar the cooperation of any delegate unwilling to accept Communist Party orders, was laid down as an ultimatum. Thereupon CP-controlled delegates called for "a united front under the leadership of the CP and ILD". Having driven all non-controllable delegates out, they got it.

The Communist Party and the Western Worker, seeking to shift responsibility for this unfortunate break-up, have completely misrepresented what happened on January 26. The real truth can be testified to, not only by delegates present and

ties Union and Mr. Clark of the Oakland Labor Council, all of whom were present as observers.

The smashing of the unified defense machinery has also meant the breakdown of pending arrangements for a joint legal defense fund. Consequently our organization must make an independent financial campaign. Attorney Goldman is charging no fee, but his expenses and trial incidentals must be paid for. Our New York office cannot meet all the costs and, having no local organization, we are at a disadvantage. While the ILD receives money from several committees claiming to be interested in the entire defense, we have not received a cent of California money, despite the agreement of many observers that our record has been one of helpfulness to ALL the defendants.

We ask you for a contribution, large or small, to our Sacramento legal defense fund. We will account to every contributor for every penny.

You may send your contributions to the undersigned.

For the sake of an important fight on behalf of labor and political freedom, let us hear from you at once.

Fraternally,

Herbert Solow,
California Representative,
Non-Partisan Labor Defense
Room 439, Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

P.S. If you belong to an organization, we ask you to present this appeal to it and to urge it to aid us with a contribution and expression of support.

THIS APPEAL HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY

Anita Brenner	Sidney Hook
V.F. Calverton	James Rorty
Max Eastman	Evelyn Scott
Carlo Tresca	

Our recent defense campaigns in the East have had the endorsement or collaboration of the International Ladies Garment Workers (New York Joint Boards), the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of New York, the United Hebrew Trades, the New York Forwards Assn., the General Defense Committee of the I.W.W., the League for Industrial Democracy, the Socialist Party, the Workers Party of the U. S., the Workmens Circle (national headquarters) and other labor organizations.

OEA 13100 A. F. of L.

included - Copy this only

CH

THE MILITANT

Subscription Rates

\$4.00 per Year

Canada and Foreign

\$1.50 per Year

2c per Copy

Bundle Rates: 1c per Copy

Communist League of America

144 Second Avenue

New York, N. Y.

THE MILITANT

Editorial Board

MARTIN ABERN

JAMES P. CANNON

MAX SHACHTMAN

MAURICE SPENCER

ABRAHAM SWANICK

Sept. 21, 1934.

James Rorty
Westport, Conn.

Dear Comrade Rorty:

Enclosed are the contacts of the Communist League throughout the country. I hope you will have the opportunity to get in touch with them.

Fraternally yours,

James P. Cannon
Secretary.

A. Swaback
144 Second Ave
N.Y.

to the owner are the contacts:

C. Sheehy
66 Homestead St.
Roxbury, Mass.

Norman Satir
c/o J. Edwards
727 Briar Pl.
Chicago, Ill.

George J. Truhar
2934 Woodhill Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio.

James Sherman
c/o M. Field
1550 Euclid St. W.
Detroit, Mich.

Betty Howland
2224 1/2 Rockingham Rd.
Davenport, Iowa.

Nell Hyatt
524 Benton Blvd. (Apt. 7)
Kansas City, Mo.

Elsie Meyers
129 1/2 N. Chicago St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

C. Forsen
4045 Chicago Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn.

V. R. Dunne
3013-16th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minn.

S. Gendelman
36 Stanley St.
New Haven, Conn.

Francis Eckle
216 E. Grant St.
New Castle, Pa.

J. Sifakis
275 Lombard St.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

J. D. Osbor
150 Franklin St.
San Francisco, Calif.

Martin Mayer
1719 Lafayette St.
St. Louis, Mo.

Reinold Smith
632 University Ave.
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Wm. Watters
1327 Hickory St.
Vandalia, Ill.

W. Koehler
c/o M. Slavin
136 Presler St.
Youngstown, Ohio.

Tom Holmes
1103 N. Third St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

G. Kotz
24 Underwood St.
Newark, N. J.

J. Angelo
431 N. Wesley St.
Springfield, Ill.

Refused - not of 12/14

123-2248⁸ 1 #

123-1246-9

12.1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. **123-1314**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 12/28/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/27/50	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> ECA:DO
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, Aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT, Public Law 402, 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No credit or criminal record Chicago for

- R U C -

REFERENCE:

Bufile 123-7248
Bulet to New York December 12, 1950

DETAILS:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SA JOSEPH B. KILLGORE checked the records of Hill's Reports, Inc., a credit agency, as well as the records of the Chicago Police Department.

Neither of the aforementioned contained any information pertaining to

AGENCY 100-910
REQ. REC'D DEC 28 1950
REP'T FORW. DEC 28 1950
BY 100-910

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		123-1314-9	DEC 28 1950
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (3) - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - Chicago		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">LSEK</div>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS **CONFIDENTIAL** REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

NK 123-1494

concerning RORTY is by reason of her contact with him when he comes to the Post Office for mail. She stated that she has never heard anything derogatory concerning his reputation, character and loyalty.

Relate
~~Mrs. SAULPHER stated that she has never noticed any periodicals or mail addressed to RORTY which would appear to be the periodicals of any subversive group. She advised that the only associates which the RORTYS had in the area are RUDOLPH BUENZ of Newton, New Jersey, and AMOS DIXON of Stillwater, New Jersey.~~

Mrs. CLYDE FISH, Flatbrookville, New Jersey, advised that she knows RORTY and his wife in only a casual way; that they do not associate with any persons in the neighborhood and are away a great deal of the time, only residing in their house for intermittent periods of two or three months during which time they devote themselves mainly to their writing. She stated they apparently travel for several months gathering material for their articles and then come back to their home in Flatbrookville and spend several months preparing these articles, after which time they leave again to gather additional material. She stated that she knows of nothing derogatory concerning RORTY and his wife and that they have maintained a good reputation locally, and she knows of no reason to question their loyalty or character.

RUDOLPH BUENZ, Mill Street, Newton, New Jersey, advised that he has been acquainted with RORTY and his wife for a period of four or five years. They have been quite friendly and have mingled socially and he regards RORTY to be a man of good character and reputation. BUENZ stated that he knew of nothing derogatory concerning RORTY's reputation, character or loyalty which would render him unfit for any position involving any work of a confidential nature with the Government.

Relate
Mr. and Mrs. AMOS DIXON, Stillwater, New Jersey, were interviewed by the writer. Mr. DIXON is a retired employee of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company and a former New Jersey State Assemblyman and is a reliable source of information. Both Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that they have known the RORTYS for four or five years, having first met them at a township meeting in Flatbrookville, New Jersey, when Mr. DIXON was running for the Assembly. Since then they have visited the RORTYS on several occasions and have had the RORTYS at their home at various times for social visits.

Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that they knew of no derogatory information concerning the character, reputation or loyalty of RORTY and his wife.

NK 123-1494

Mr. DIXON stated that while he knew of no reason why RORTY should not be appointed to any position involving any confidential work with the Government, nevertheless, he did not feel he knew RORTY well enough to express a positive opinion in this regard.

3 Trooper A. E. ZAZZI of the New Jersey State Police, Newton, New Jersey, advised his department has no police record of RORTY or his wife.

There is no Credit Bureau covering the area of Flatbrookville, New Jersey.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

b6
b7C

FILE NO. 123-1775

MT

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

ES-123-1775

CRIMINAL

There is no information concerning the applicant in the records of the Massachusetts Board of Probation, Court House, Boston, Massachusetts, a central repository for all criminal arrest records in the state of Massachusetts.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 29 1950

TELETYPE

40 20
K
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

WASH 14 FROM NEWARK

29

5-50 PM

DIRECTOR

U R G E N T

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA, VOA. REBUFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH SEVEN TWO
FOUR EIGHT AND BULET TO NY DECEMBER TWELVE LAST. REPORT WILL BE
SUBMITTED JANUARY THREE NEXT.

MC KEE

CORR--LINE 1 WORD 3 SHLD BE "RORTY,"

HOLD PLS

RECORDED - 77

100-7248-11
MAR 26 1951
79
b7C

391
APR 9 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**NK FILE NO. **123-1494**

hp

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 1/2/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/28/50	REPORT MADE BY <div></div>
TITLE JAMES MANCOCK RORTY, aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: RORTY has resided at Flatbrookville, NJ, for intermittent periods since 1945. Lives in a secluded mountainous section and devotes major part of his time to writing. Neighborhood investigation and interviews with persons acquainted with RORTY since his residence in NJ reflect he bears a good reputation locally and is extremely interested in problem of proper nutrition in food stuffs. No derogatory information developed. No police record. <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p>			
REFERENCE: Bureau letter to New York, 12/12/50.			
DETAILS: Postmistress MARIE SAULTER, Flatbrookville, New Jersey, advised that RORTY and his wife reside in a secluded section of that area, their home being located in the mountains about one mile outside of Flatbrookville. She stated they have resided there intermittently for the past four or five years and are presently on a trip to Central America, the purpose of which Mrs. SAULTER stated is to allow RORTY to gather material for an article dealing with the nutritional elements present in various fruits which are brought to the United States by the United Fruit Company. This company is sponsoring RORTY's trip and the forthcoming article. Mrs. SAULTER stated that both RORTY and his wife while at their home devote the major part of their time to writing and do not mingle with any of the local residents of the area. Mrs. SAULTER stated that the only knowledge she has			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		123-7248-12	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (123-7248) 1 - Newark			

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

NK 123-1494

concerning RORTY is by reason of her contact with him when he comes to the Post Office for mail. She stated that she has never heard anything derogatory concerning his reputation, character and loyalty.

Mrs. SAULTER stated, however, that she believed RORTY was anti-Communist and, as a basis for this opinion, stated that she recalled RORTY's stating four or five years ago when the war ended that America should not disarm but should go right on through to Russia in order to prevent Russia from gaining too much power in Europe. She could not recall any other statements made by Rorty in this regard.

She advised that the only associates which the RORTYS had in the area are RUDOLPH BUENZ of Newton, New Jersey, and AMOS DIXON of Stillwater, New Jersey.

Mrs. CLYDE FISH, Flatbrookville, New Jersey, advised that she knows RORTY and his wife in only a casual way; that they do not associate with any persons in the neighborhood and are away a great deal of the time, only residing in their house for intermittent periods of two or three months during which time they devote themselves mainly to their writing. She stated they apparently travel for several months gathering material for their articles and then come back to their home in Flatbrookville and spend several months preparing these articles, after which time they leave again to gather additional material. She stated that she knows nothing derogatory concerning RORTY and his wife and that they have maintained a good reputation locally, and she knows of no reason to question their loyalty or character.

RUDOLPH BUENZ, Mill Street, Newton, New Jersey, advised that he has been acquainted with RORTY and his wife for a period of four or five years. They have been quite friendly and have mingled socially and he regards RORTY to be a man of good character and reputation. BUENZ stated that he knew of nothing derogatory concerning RORTY's reputation, character or loyalty which would render him unfit for any position involving any work of a confidential nature with the Government.

Mr. BUENZ stated that RORTY might be considered somewhat radical in his thinking along certain lines and gave as an illustration the fact that RORTY is vitally interested in the question of forcing the food manufacturers, particularly the flour industry, to properly utilize all the nutritional elements in wheat. RORTY is so fanatical in this connection that he has in the past even sent to Texas for a particular type of wheat which he utilized in making his own bread. According to BUENZ, RORTY believes that the Government should exercise more control over the question of regulating the proper amount of nutrition in food stuffs. BUENZ stated that he did not mean to imply that RORTY was radical in his thinking in so far as any subversive

NK 123-1494

sympathies were concerned and stated on the other hand that RORTY, in his opinion, is anti-Communist in his feelings.

BUENZ stated that the only specific example which he could give to back up his opinion of the anti-Communist feelings of RORTY was a recollection which BUENZ had of a conversation with RORTY recently in which RORTY stated that the Peekskill Mountains were full of Communists and that steps should be taken so that the water supply of New York City, which emanates from the Peekskill area would be carefully guarded against any attempt to poison water by these Communists in the event America went to war with Russia. BUENZ stated that RORTY's feelings in this regard were apparently quite strong in view of the fact that he has mentioned it on several occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. AMOS DIXON, Stillwater, New Jersey, were interviewed by the writer. Mr. DIXON is a retired employee of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company and a former New Jersey State Assemblyman. Both Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that they have known the RORTYS for four or five years, having first met them at a township meeting in Flatbrookville, New Jersey, when Mr. DIXON was running for the Assembly. Since then they have visited the RORTYS on several occasions and have had the RORTYS at their home at various times for social visits.

Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that they knew of no derogatory information concerning the character, reputation or loyalty of RORTY and his wife. Mr. DIXON stated that while he knew of no reason why RORTY should not be appointed to any position involving any confidential work with the Government, nevertheless, he did not feel that he knew RORTY well enough to express a positive opinion in this regard.

Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that during various conversations with RORTY he has expressed himself as being violently anti-Communist. He has stated that the Communists will never gain control of the Government of the United States; that everyone should do what he could to combat the Communist infiltration in this country, and recently told the DIXONS that he had applied for a position with the Voice of America section of the State Department and was going to do whatever he could in that position to combat the Communists.

Trooper A. E. ZAZZI of the New Jersey State Police, Newton, New Jersey, advised his department has no police record of RORTY or his wife.

There is no Credit Bureau covering the area of Flatbrookville, New Jersey.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

ADMINISTRATIVE

With regard to RORTY's loyalty, Mrs. SAULTER stated that she believed he was loyal; however, she believed he was a Socialist. This opinion is based upon the fact that prior to RORTY's residence in Flatbrookville there was no one who voted on the Socialist ticket, but that since he has resided there, there has been a Socialist vote cast each year, and she is of the opinion RORTY is the one who has cast this vote. She stated that she could not furnish any further basis for her opinion in this regard.

① Mrs. SAULTER stated, however, that she believed RORTY was anti-Communist and, as a basis for this opinion, stated that she recalled RORTY's stating four or five years ago when the war ended that America should not disarm but should go right on through to Russia in order to prevent Russia from gaining too much power in Europe. She could not recall any other statements made by RORTY in this regard.

② Mr. BUENZ
RUDOLPH BUENZ, who is also mentioned in the body of this report, stated that RORTY might be considered somewhat radical in his thinking along certain lines and gave as an illustration the fact that RORTY is vitally interested in the question of forcing the food manufacturers, particularly the flour industry, to properly utilize all the nutritional elements in wheat. RORTY is so fanatical in this connection that he has in the past even sent to Texas for a particular type of wheat which he utilized in making his own bread. According to BUENZ, RORTY believes that the Government should exercise more control over the question of regulating the proper amount of nutrition in food stuffs. BUENZ stated that he did not mean to imply that RORTY was radical in his thinking in so far as any subversive sympathies were concerned and stated on the other hand that RORTY, in his opinion, is anti-Communist in his feelings.

BUENZ stated that the only specific example which he could give to back up his opinion of the anti-Communist feelings of RORTY was a recollection which BUENZ had of a conversation with RORTY recently in which RORTY stated that the Peekskill Mountains were full of Communists and that steps should be taken so that the water supply of New York City, which emanates from the Peekskill area would be carefully guarded against any attempt to poison water by these Communists in the event America went to war with Russia. BUENZ stated that RORTY's feelings in this regard were apparently quite strong in view of the fact that he has mentioned it on several occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that during various conversations with RORTY he has expressed himself as being violently anti-Communist. He has stated that the Communists will never gain control of the Government of the

NK 123-1494

ADMINISTRATIVE (Continued)

United States; that everyone should do what he could to combat the Communist infiltration in this country, and recently told the DIXONS that he had applied for a position with the Voice of America Section of the State Department and was going to do whatever he could in that position to combat the Communists.

Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that they have read a number of RORTY's articles, which have concerned themselves mainly with the question of better nutrition in the food industry, particularly in the manufacture of flour and wheat products. RORTY's wife writes under the name of WINIFRED RAUCHENBUSCH, which is her maiden name, and a number of her articles have appeared in the "Commentary" Magazine. These articles have concerned themselves mainly with the sociological problems of the Chinese, negroes and other so-called underprivileged classes, and in order to secure material for her article, she has told Mr. and Mrs. DIXON that she has gone out and lived with the Chinese on the West Coast and the negroes in New York City.

According to Mr. and Mrs. DIXON, she recently was supposed to have written an article concerning PAUL ROBESON for the above magazine, but they have not read this article and do not know the tenor of it. Mr. and Mrs. DIXON stated that at various times the RORTYS have mentioned their acquaintanceship with prominent writers such as LOUIS BROMFIELD, CARL VAN DOREN, and others and appear to be well known in New York circles composed of writers in this class.

The indices of the Newark Office are negative relative to WINIFRED RAUCHENBUSCH.

Mrs. CLYDE FISH, whose information is set forth in this report, advised that she is a clerk for the Board of Elections in Flatbrookville, New Jersey. She stated that prior to 1948 no inquiry was made as to party affiliations of any registered voters and that since 1948 RORTY has not voted in a primary election and consequently his party affiliation is unknown.

Communications Industry

Winifred Rauchenbusch

Employed by "Commentary Magazine"

(Encl. Card)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 1/27/51

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: *ml* James Hancock Rorty

CHARACTER OF CASE: VOA

DEADLINE DATE: 12/26/50

This case will be delinquent because derogatory

information.

Report being dictated

Report will reach the Bureau by the following date: 2/1/51

BUR: FILE #

123-7248

NY FILE #

123-4919

123-7248-✓
NOT RECORDED

157 MAR 26 1951

381
62 APR 13 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :
FROM : *[Signature]*
SUBJECT: Director, FBI
SAC, New York

DATE: 1/21/51

K.

James Hancock's Rorty, aka

CHARACTER OF CASE: VOA

DEADLINE DATE: 12/26/50

This case will be delinquent because publisher of applicant's book and one other person who reportedly can furnish pertinent information are not available until latter part of next week.

Report will reach the Bureau by the following date: 1/27/51

BUR: FILE # 123-72881 123-7248-✓

NY FILE # 123-4919

NOT RECORDED
MAR 26 195139/
62 APR 13 1951*[Signature]*

New Haven, Conn.
December 29, 1950

SAC, NEW YORK

URGENT

RE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, VOA, BUFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH
SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT. RE BULET NY DEC. TWELVE LAST.
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SAN DIEGO INDICATING THAT
APPLICANT WAS RESIDING WESTPORT, CONN. IN SEPT. NINETEEN
THIRTY FOUR. NO STREET ADDRESS INDICATED. REVIEW UR
FILES AND ADVISE IF YOU HAVE DEFINITE ADDRESS FOR RORTY
AND ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS OPERATIONS
IN CONN. NEW HAVEN OFFICE WAS NOT OPENED UNTIL NINETEEN
FORTY HENCE NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO PRIOR ACTIVITIES
IN CONN. CONTACT INFORMANTS UR OFFICE WHO WOULD KNOW
APPLICANT-S ACTIVITIES IN NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR IN CONN. SUTEL.

WILLIS

END

FSM:RLF
NH 123-895

cc: BUREAU

SAC, New York

December 28, 1950

SAC, Chicago

JAMES HANCOCK BORTY, Aka
(VOICE OF AMERICA)

Rebulet to New York December 12, 1950.

The only reference contained in the indices of the Chicago Office pertaining to the above-captioned applicant is found in the report of SA SAMUEL G. RILEY dated May 10, 1944 at Newark, New Jersey in the case entitled "Civil Rights Defense Committee; Internal Security - C", page 15.

In view of the fact that your office is in possession of this report and your office is the office of origin in this case, any reporting of information pertaining to the applicant is being left to your discretion and Chicago is not mentioning same.

ECA:DO
123-1314

cc: Bureau (123-7248)

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION

JAN 3 15 20 PM '51

RECEIVED F B I

123-7248 ✓
NOT RECORDED
8 JAN 8 1951

50 APR 9 1951

[Handwritten signature]

Office Memorandum

• UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 5, 1951

FROM : *JH* SAC, New York

SUBJECT: *R* JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka; VOICE OF AMERICA
(Bureau File 123-7248)

For information of offices concerned, applicant's wife has written under the name WINIFRED RAUSHENBUSH.

cc: Boston
Knoxville
New Haven
San Diego
San Francisco
Washington Field

JBB:mxm
123-4919

RECORDED - 27

123-7248-13
JAN 6 1951
37
[Signature]

60 APR 9 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

NH FILE NO. 123-895 md

REPORT MADE AT <p style="text-align: center;">NEW HAVEN</p>	DATE WHEN MADE <p style="text-align: center;">1/9/51</p>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <p style="text-align: center;">1/5,6,8/51</p>	REPORT MADE BY <p style="text-align: center;">JAMES M. TENNANT</p>
TITLE <p>JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka, James Rorty, James H. Rorty</p>			CHARACTER OF CASE <p>SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA</p>

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant states applicant and wife resided in Easton, Conn. about 25 years ago and applicant was open in his praises of Russian Government; was against the Capitalistic system and stated Communism was a better system of Government than the Government in this country. Mrs. ARTHUR DRIESEN, Easton, Conn., states applicant eccentric person but bore good reputation; she knew of nothing which would indicate disloyalty. No credit record Bridgeport; no arrest record Westport or Easton PDs for applicant or wife.

AGENCY 100-251
 REC'D 3-5-51
 REF'T 100-251
 BY 100-251

RUC

REFERENCE:

Bulet to New York, 12/12/50
 San Diego letter to New York, 12/26/50
 New York letter to New Haven, 1/5/51

DETAILS:

At Easton, Connecticut

New Haven Confidential Informant T-1, of unknown reliability, who declined to furnish a signed statement or to appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board, advised that applicant and his wife, WINIFRED, resided in Easton, Conn. about 25 years ago. This informant stated further that during the time applicant resided in Easton, he was open in his praises of the Russian Government; was against all forms of Capitalism, and stated that the Communistic system of Government was superior to the American form of Government. This informant was unable to furnish any additional information regarding applicant or his wife.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <small>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</small>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">RECORDED - 27</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">INDEXED - 27</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <p>3 - Bureau (SD) 1 - New Haven</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

NH 123-895

Mrs. ARTHUR DRIESEN, Easton, Conn., advised she vaguely recalled applicant as having resided in that community many years ago and described him as being a very intelligent person who was reported to be a writer and she further described him as being somewhat eccentric. She advised that she knew nothing which would indicate disloyalty on the part of applicant or his wife, and as far as she knew they bore good reputations in that community.

It may be noted that applicant resided in a sparsely settled section of Easton, Conn. and neither Confidential Informant T-1 nor Mrs. DRIESEN were able to furnish names of any other persons who could recall the applicant.

The following investigation was conducted by SA FORREST S. PUTMAN.

At Westport, Connecticut

A search of the Westport City Directories and the records of the Tax Assessor's Office and Old Age and Real Estate Tax Division of the City of Westport, as well as the records of the U. S. Post Office, was made in an effort to obtain a Westport address for the applicant, but none was located.

The following investigation was conducted by the reporting agent.

Credit and Criminal

No credit information was located at the Bridgeport Credit Rating Bureau, Bridgeport, Conn., which Bureau also covers Westport and Easton, Conn., on applicant.

No criminal record was located in the records of the Westport or Easton Police Departments which was identifiable with applicant or his wife.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

NH 123-895

INFORMANT

In the report of SA JAMES M. TENNANT dated 1/9/51 the following informant was utilized:

b6
b7C
b7D

T-1

[redacted]
Conn., who requested that [redacted] name be kept confidential in connection with this case inasmuch as applicant and his present wife [redacted]

[redacted] when [redacted] was a young girl, and applicant's wife has periodically corresponded with her.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b6
b7C

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. 123-708

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 1-17-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1-9,10,11-51	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> amc
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Applicant's employment by Mr. ERIC HODGINS, Fortune Magazine, as free lance writer, verified by Mr. HODGINS as period 1936-37. Applicant not closely associated with Mr. HODGINS in past fourteen years but regarded applicant during period of association as honest and sincere and has no derogatory information concerning applicant. Employment during 1939-40 as special feature writer for Mr. VICTOR LINDLAHR at New York verified. Mr. LINDLAHR advises company had to dispense with applicant's services because of his "leftist leanings". Mr. LINDLAHR has had no contact with applicant during past ten years and stated would not recommend him for a position of trust with the government because of his radical ideas.

*1cc - Army
2-20-51
2-20-51
Richards McKay
Rorty (C-n)*

AGENCY **116-05D**
REC'D **5-5-51**
REP'T FORW **1-18-51**
BY **116-05D**

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

New York teletype to Miami dated January 8, 1951.

DETAILS:

AT SARASOTA, FLORIDA:

EMPLOYMENT

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Ed Mason</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (123-7248) (AMSD) 1 - Miami <i>123-7248-2-21-57</i>	123-7248-15 JAN 19 1951 <i>123-7248-15</i>	RECORDED - 27

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

LM 123-708

Mr. ERIC HODGINS, Fortune Magazine, New York City, advised that he employed the applicant as a free lance writer for a short time during 1936 and 1937, but pointed out that he has not been closely associated with or in a position to know very much about the applicant since that time. Mr. HODGINS described the applicant as being honest and sincere and one who in his writings expressed his beliefs without reservations. He further stated that the applicant in his personal life was gentle and conventional and it is his, Mr. HODGINS, belief that the applicant is loyal to the United States. He stated that he did not have any derogatory information as to the character or reputation of the applicant.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent J. B. BROWN:

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Mr. VICTOR LINDLAHR, who resides at 211 N. Coconut Lane, Palm Island, Miami Beach, and who voluntarily classified himself as "a conservative", advised that the applicant was employed by the company which Mr. LINDLAHR represents in New York during 1939 and 1940 to write special articles on food and food research. He stated that the applicant was well qualified for the work and was an excellent writer but the company had to dispense with the applicant's services due to his very definite "leftist leanings". When asked as to what he meant by this remark, Mr. LINDLAHR stated that the applicant "was a follower of HENRY WALLACE and that he seemed to possess grandios ideas that he could cure the ills of the world". Mr. LINDLAHR could not further explain or elaborate on this statement. He stated that he has had no contact with the applicant during the past ten years but that he would not recommend the applicant for a position of trust with the government because of the applicant's ideas which Mr. LINDLAHR considered "radical".

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

NY FILE NO. 123-4919 L-J

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 2/6/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/14, 19-22, 28, 29/50; 1/3-5, 8-13, 15-20, 22-26/51	REPORT MADE BY JOHN B. BJORKLUND, JR.
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC LAW 402, 80TH CONGRESS VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Applicant born 3/30/90 at Middletown, N.Y. Was one of first editors of "New Masses" in mid-twenties. Employed as copy writer Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, NYC, 1926-30. Free lance writer since 1930. Has written numerous articles and poems for magazines. During 1930's had published book of poems, as well as three books. One book concerns itself with an attack on advertising, another with the faulty distribution of medical services, and the other is the story of RORTY's trip across the country. Articles recent years indicate RORTY anti-Communist. Author of articles concerning health and nutrition in which field RORTY is considered an expert. Currently in Central America employed by United Fruit Co. to write health articles. Resided NYC short while early 1930's and occasional hotel stays in NYC. During 1920's and 1930's RORTY, according to many associates, was non-conformist and radical, a constant espouser of the causes of those he felt were being oppressed or discriminated against. Classified as strong individualist who never joined any party during this period, although he often took parallel action with Communists. Labelled a Trotskyite during 1930's by several.

AGENCY FILED
 FEB. 10 1951
 REP'D NEW YORK
 BY 207

b7E

F.O.
 288-110
 2/10/51

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

4 - Bureau (123-7248)
 1 - New York

INDEXED - 27

NY 123-4919

SYNOPSIS (Cont'd): Supported FOSTER-FORD, CP candidates, in 1932 elections. States in article that in 1933 he had learned that the Communist Party was controlled instrument of totalitarian police state with headquarters in Moscow. Persons well acquainted state he has been strongly anti-Communist for years. Affiliated numerous organizations in 1930's and early 1940's which were fronts of the Socialist Workers Party and the Socialists, with a predominance of Socialist Workers Party groups. Fellow employees of late 1920's considered applicant a Communist but could recall nothing specific on which impression based. Other persons interviewed state RORTY completely loyal to this country, and of exceptionally strong character and integrity, and associations recent years above reproach. Wife held in same high esteem by those who know her. Family reputation excellent. References recommend without reservation. Family background reflects several of kin have suffered mental disorders. Credit record satisfactory. No criminal record.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 123-7248.
Bureau letter to New York, 12/12/50.

DETAILS:

BIRTH DATA

Mrs. MARY HARMINGTON, Registrar of Vital Statistics, City Hall, Middletown, New York, furnished SA LOUIS P. HUNLEY with the birth record for JAMES HANCOCK RORTY. This record indicates that RORTY was born in Middletown, March 30, 1890, his father was R. M. RORTY, age 49, born in Ireland, and his mother was noted as ADA CHURCHILL RORTY, age 37, born at Attica, New York.

EMPLOYMENTS

It is to be noted that RORTY, in his application, indicates that he was an editor of the publication, "New Masses", from 1924 to 1926. The "New York Times" edition of December 8, 1925 carried an article which states that the "New Masses", a radical magazine of arts and letters without political affiliations or propaganda obligations, but with sympathy and allegiance with the International Labor Movement, would shortly make its appearance, and listed JAMES RORTY as one of the five editors of the new publication.

The Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, on December 18, 1948 cited the publication, "New Masses" as follows:

1. "A 'Communist periodical'. (Attorney General FRANCIS BIDDLE, Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, page 7688)
2. "'Nationally circulated weekly journal of the Communist Party *** whose ownership was vested in the American Fund for Public Service' (Garland Fund).
(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report March 29, 1944, pages 48 and 75; also cited in reports January 3, 1939, page 80; and June 25, 1942, pages 4 and 21)
3. "'Until its recent merger with Mainstream, the New Masses has been the weekly journalistic voice of the Communist Party. Its first appearance was as a monthly. As The Masses, it was suppressed by the United States Government for its subversive policies.' Mainstream was launched by the Communist Party in January 1947, dealing with the field of literature and creative arts. (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Reports 1947, page 160; and 1948, page 340)
4. "'Issued from Communist presses and distributed by the Communists Progressive Book Shop in Boston, Mass. (Massachusetts House Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1938, pages 281 and 443)"

NY 123-4919

Miss CLAIRE STRACK, secretary to the Personnel Director, BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN, 383 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., advised that their employment records reflect that JAMES RORTY, born March 30, 1890, was employed on December 6, 1926, and was released on August 31, 1930. She stated that RORTY had been a copy writer in the Copy Department. She said the records indicate that his address was noted as 282 West 11th Street, New York, N. Y., and RD 1, Westport, Connecticut. Miss STRACK advised that the reason for RORTY's leaving is not noted on his employment record.

Mr. WILLIAM ORCHARD, Vice President, BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN, advised that he recalls RORTY as having been a copy writer for the concern many years ago. He went on to say that RORTY had the reputation for being "radical" and being against our form of government. He said that he was considered in advertising circles to be a Communist, although he had no personal knowledge of RORTY ever being a member of the Communist Party and could recall no incidents which would be a corroboration of his impression that RORTY had been a Communist. He said that he can recall reading articles by RORTY which reflected that RORTY was critical of the capitalistic system, but that it has been so long since he has read any of RORTY's articles, that he cannot recall their substance or where they appeared. He went on to say that he has not seen or heard of RORTY in twenty years and has no idea what his present opinions are. Mr. ORCHARD related that he could furnish no information concerning RORTY's associations during the period he had been with the concern, and that he recalls no incident which would reflect adversely on his character. Mr. ORCHARD said, however, that because of his reputation as a "radical", he would not recommend RORTY to a position of trust with the government. Mr. ORCHARD indicated that his knowledge concerning RORTY's political and ideological background was so indefinite and vague that he did not desire to furnish a signed statement, nor would he be willing to appear before a loyalty board.

Mr. LESLIE PEARL, Executive, BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN, advised that he had worked with RORTY as a fellow copy writer with this concern about twenty years ago. He recalled that RORTY had been a strong fighter against anything which infringed on civil liberties, and was an avowed "espouser of causes for the working man". He said that RORTY had been

NY 123-4919

against big business in general and against the advertising industry in particular. Mr. PEARL stated that RORTY had the reputation of being critical of the manner the United States government was being conducted. He went on to say that he has no knowledge that RORTY was ever a Communist, but it is his impression that the applicant had been Socialistic in his viewpoints on government. Mr. PEARL advised that he is certain that RORTY was not the type who would sympathize with a foreign country or do anything against the best interests of the United States. He related that he had heard that RORTY was affiliated with groups of a Communist or Socialist nature, but could not recall the source of this information or the names of the groups.

Mr. PEARL advised that RORTY was not well thought of in advertising circles because of a book he had written called, "Our Master's Voice", which was an indictment of the advertising industry. Mr. PEARL went on to say that he has not had any contact with RORTY for many years and has no knowledge of his associations or current opinions. He said that he believes that RORTY would be loyal to the United States, but that the government could be criticized for placing a man who had written articles critical of our form of government and our system of private enterprise in a position of trust. He went on to say that he did not feel qualified to comment one way or the other as to RORTY's qualifications for a position of trust because he has no personal knowledge of the alleged affiliations on the part of RORTY during the 1930's. He said he, therefore, would not be willing to furnish a signed statement or to appear before a loyalty board.

Mr. ROY DURSTINE, President of the ROY DURSTINE CO., INC., advertising agency, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., advised that he had been associated with the advertising concern of BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN during the period when RORTY had been employed by this concern. He said that his recollection of RORTY was extremely vague and that he has no personal knowledge of RORTY's opinions, and, therefore, did not feel qualified to comment concerning RORTY.

Miss LOUISE MC LEOD, Secretary, BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN, advised that she recalls RORTY as a fellow employee in the concern in the late 1920's. She said that he had been a poor advertising man, and shortly after

leaving the concern, had published a book called, "Our Master's Voice". She went on to say that this book was a scathing indictment of the advertising industry and that RORTY, while employed with BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN, had used the company library as a source for the information contained in the book. Miss MC LEOD went on to say that it is her impression that RORTY was by nature contrary. Miss MC LEOD said that inasmuch as RORTY had not been loyal to his employer, she would hesitate to recommend him for a position of trust with the government. She said that she has not seen RORTY for over twenty years and, therefore, did not feel qualified to comment concerning RORTY's loyalty, character or associations.

Confidential Informant T-1, of unknown reliability, a top ranking executive in a New York advertising firm, advised that he had been well acquainted with RORTY during his employment with BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN. He said that RORTY had not been a particularly good advertising man and had been released because of this. He said that on one occasion RORTY had gone to Boston, supposedly on company business, and had been arrested in some protest strike against the ban of a book. This informant said that he has no knowledge of whether the applicant had been a member of the Communist Party, but that it is his impression that RORTY was a Communist. He said that the applicant had written his book castigating the advertising industry shortly after leaving the BATTEN, BARTON, DURSTINE AND OSBORN concern, and had used as a basis for his book, information gleaned from this concern's library. This informant stated that he has had no contact with RORTY for about twenty years and had no knowledge of RORTY's associations, past or present. He said that he would not recommend RORTY to a position of trust with the government and would have serious doubts as to his loyalty because of his previous disloyalty to his employer. He said that he has nothing definite on which to base his impression that RORTY had been a Communist and would not be willing to furnish a signed statement or appear before a loyalty board.

The "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature", containing a list of all articles printed in the principal magazines in the United States, reflects that JAMES RORTY wrote a great many poems for various magazines between 1922 and 1932.

NY 123-4919

The majority of these poems were published in the magazine, "The Nation". In 1926 RORTY's poems were published as a collection in a book called, "Children of the Sun", published by McMillan Company in New York City. A review of this book indicates that the poems are a reprint of the poems previously appearing in magazines. The poems themselves are idealistic and mood poems, and are of no apparent ideological or political significance, although they do portray RORTY's dislike of war and his apparent disillusionment with the era. The "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature" indicates that from 1932 to date RORTY has published a great many articles, and that from the titles of these articles it would appear that many dealt with health and medicine while others concerned themselves with economic conditions during the 1930's. Inasmuch as RORTY's books will be dealt with in detail and comments from various publishers concerning RORTY's writings will be set forth, the aforementioned magazine articles are not being considered in detail.

In his application RORTY indicates that he has been a correspondent for "The Nation" during the period 1934 to 1936. The "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature" reflects that between 1933 and 1935 RORTY wrote four articles for "The Nation". These articles are entitled, "How Radical Are the Farmers", "Consumer Versus the NRA", "Counting the Homeless", and "Relief Business is Booming". These articles are similar in substance to the articles which RORTY wrote as a roving correspondent for the "New York Post" in 1934, and which will be subsequently referred to.

The "New York Herald Tribune" issue of January 16, 1936, in its review of RORTY's book, "Where Life Is Better", makes reference to the fact that fifteen years before, RORTY had won "The Nation" poetry prize.

Mr. BENJAMIN STOLBERG, whose comments concerning RORTY will be set forth later in this report, advised that RORTY had never been a regular employee of the publication, "The Nation", but had been a constant contributor to this magazine during the 1930's.

Mr. R. S. LATHAM, Vice President, McMillan Company, publishers, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., advised that in 1926 this concern had published a collection of poems by RORTY

NY 123-4919

entitled, "Children of the Sun". He said that he had little contact with RORTY at the time of publication and has not seen the applicant since that time. He said that he could not comment concerning RORTY's character, loyalty or associations. Mr. LATHAM made inquiry among other older employees of the concern and could find no one who recalled RORTY or who had any association with him.

Mr. RICHARD S. WALSH, SR., Executive, JOHN DAY COMPANY, publishers, 62 West 45th Street, advised that this concern had published RORTY's book, "Our Master's Voice", in 1934, and his book, "Where Life Is Better", in 1936. Mr. WALSH advised that he has known RORTY for twenty years and would recommend him without reservation as a man who is thoroughly American in his loyalties and is above reproach in his integrity. He said that RORTY for many years has been a man who attacked established institutions, and has therefore been thought of as being radical. Mr. WALSH advised that it is his impression that RORTY might have been a Trotskyite many years ago inasmuch as he vaguely recalls RORTY having mentioned to him that he was sympathetic to this movement. He said that RORTY is an able and intelligent man and for many years has been strongly anti-Communist. Mr. WALSH stated that none of the other members of the concern had any dealings with RORTY and were not acquainted with him. He went on to say that RORTY's book, "Our Master's Voice", had been an expose of the practices and weaknesses of advertising in this country and that his book, "Where Life Is Better", was written as the result of a journey across the United States wherein RORTY set down his observations of social and economic conditions. RORTY's book, "Our Master's Voice", is an attack on capitalism via an expose of advertising. In this book RORTY states that truthful advertising in a competitive economic system is impossible and that a competitive economic system which has reached a productive capacity beyond its purchasing power, cannot function even haltingly without advertising. Ergo, from RORTY's reasoning, a vigorous people can free itself from the cultural decay and corruption of advertising only by freeing itself from the capitalistic system. He goes on to say that advertising promises not merely economic chaos but cultural death.

The "New York Times" edition of January 19, 1936 contains a review of RORTY's book, "Where Life Is Better - An Unsentimental American Journey". This review states that the

NY 123-4919

book is the story of RORTY's trip across the United States and his return, wherein RORTY states that our domestic situation is that of a progressively deteriorating social and economic anarchy with a definite drift towards Fascism. The review continues and says that RORTY, frankly radical that he is, is no doctrinaire and cannot swallow the doctrine of the class struggle. RORTY, in his book, states, "The final conflict, if there is to be a final conflict, which I doubt, will be not between class and class but between intelligence and stupidity, between sanity and fanaticism, between justice and injustice, between freedom and tyranny."

The review of RORTY's book, "Where Life Is Better - An Unsentimental American Journey", contained in the January 21, 1936 edition of the "New York Post", points out that RORTY in his book indicates that the hope of the American people is in surrendering the belief in the "Democratic Dogma" and replacing the present government with some form of absolute rule in which planning would remove the sad state of disorder and injustice. The review states that RORTY's program is vague and that he is a radical without political affiliations who does not agree with the Communists or any other group sufficiently to share their efforts. RORTY in this book states, "At some point, just where or when I don't know, the American dream of freedom of opportunity, of democracy, of justice, as things actual and possible within the framework of a capitalist economy, will be definitely discarded by the masses and agricultural workers."

Mr. MALCOLM LOGAN, "New York Post", 75 West Street, New York, N. Y., advised that RORTY had never been a regular employee of the paper but had been engaged on a free lance basis to write a series of articles in 1934 concerning RORTY's trip across country, wherein RORTY discusses sociological, political and economic problems which he came across in his travels. A review of the "New York Post" files reflects that RORTY's articles, approximately fifteen in number, were written from October 5, 1934 through December 5, 1934. These articles dealt with conditions among the steel workers, the farmers, the miners and the automobile workers, and was a comprehensive treatise of the political, economic and social problems existing in the communities RORTY passed through.

NY 123-4919

Mr. HOWARD WILSON, Vice President of the W. W. NORTON COMPANY, publishers, 101 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., advised that this concern in 1939 had published RORTY's book, "American Medicine Mobilize's". Mr. WILSON stated that RORTY had been a close personal friend of W. W. NORTON, now deceased, and that he, himself, had little contact with the applicant. He said that RORTY appeared to be an able and intelligent individual and that he has never heard or seen anything which would reflect adversely on RORTY's character or loyalty. Mr. WILSON advised that no one else in the concern had any dealings with RORTY. Mr. WILSON advised that he cannot recall much about RORTY's book except that it is critical of the American Medical Association.

The May 22, 1939 issue of the "New York Post" contains a review of RORTY's book, "American Medicine Mobilizes", and indicates that this book is critical of the American Medical Association, and expresses RORTY's opinion that it is a disgrace that thousands should suffer because of the faulty distribution of medical care.

Mr. STEWART KELLOGG, Advertising and Sales Promotion Manager, PRENTICE HALL, INC., publishers, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., stated that two years ago this concern had published a book written by JAMES RORTY and Dr. N. PHILIP NORMAN, entitled, "Tomorrow's Food". Mr. KELLOGG advised that this book concerned itself with the writers' convictions that natural foods were the only foods of benefit to mankind, and that the use of substitutes would be injurious to the health of mankind. He said that RORTY is particularly interested in nutrition and is firm in his convictions that only the natural foods should be used in the diet. He said that he has written many articles in connection with this problem and has earned the enmity of the flour industry because of his attacks on them for the use of substitutes in the production of flour. Mr. KELLOGG stated that RORTY is a crusader in spirit and has impressed him as being a man of complete honesty, integrity and reliability. He said that he has never observed anything which would in any way cause him to question RORTY's loyalty to this country, and expressed the opinion that RORTY is the type of person who could serve the country well in a position of trust. Mr. KELLOGG stated that no one else in the concern would have had any contact with RORTY inasmuch as the book was written on a free lance basis.

NY 123-4919

Mr. ARMITAGE WATKINS, literary agent, 77 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y., advised that he has been the applicant's literary agent for the past four or five years and that during this time RORTY has written many articles for such magazines as "Commentary", "The Commonweal", and "Harper's". He said that at the present time RORTY is writing a book for the Sloane publishing house which concerns itself with problems of conversation. Mr. WATKINS stated that most of RORTY's articles concern themselves with conversation measures and expressed RORTY's belief that tampering with the natural cycle of nature through the introduction of nitrates in the soil would upset the physical well being of mankind. He went on to say that RORTY's articles excited great controversy among the bakers of the country because of his condemnation of the flour being used by the bakers. He said that RORTY is a man of strong convictions and complete integrity. Mr. WATKINS went on to say that he had no occasion to discuss with RORTY matters pertinent to politics or ideology, but that RORTY has never given him the impression that he was other than a loyal American citizen.

Mr. ROY NORR, public relations executive, 11 West 43d Street, New York, N. Y., advised that he has known RORTY for fifteen years and has been utilized by him for commercial writeups in connection with the public relations business which he operates. He said that RORTY, in the 1930's, was generally considered a radical because of his strong sense of social responsibility, but that even then the applicant had been strongly anti-Communist. Mr. NORR said that in 1934 and 1935, when he, himself, believed that the Russian experiment had certain merits, RORTY had warned him against the chicanery and the deceit of the Communists. Mr. NORR advised that RORTY is an able and dynamic individual who could serve the country well in a position of trust. He said that he is firmly convinced that RORTY is above reproach in matters of loyalty and would be of great value in fighting against Communism. He further advised that RORTY is a man of outstanding character and has never, to the best of his knowledge, associated with elements who are interested in Un-American ideologies.

Mr. ELLIOTT COHEN, editor of the magazine, "Commentary" 34 West 33d Street, New York, N. Y., advised that RORTY has contributed several

NY 123-4919

articles to the magazine in the last few years, which articles have plainly indicated that RORTY is anti-Communist. He said that a good many of the articles RORTY has written in recent years have concerned themselves with nutrition and the utilization of food resources, as well as subjects concerned with general health and medicine. Mr. COHEN advised that the most recent article by RORTY appeared in the October 1950 issue of "Commentary" and was entitled, "The Lessons of the Peekskill Riots". This article, he said, set forth the real facts of the Peekskill incident and pointed out the deliberate efforts of the Communists to provoke the incident. This article, Mr. COHEN advised, clearly indicated RORTY's lack of sympathy with Communism. Mr. COHEN advised that RORTY's wife, WINIFRED RAUSHENBUSH, collaborated with him on the article. It is to be noted that ELLIOTT COHEN is given by the applicant as a reference and Mr. COHEN's comments concerning RORTY personally will be set forth in the appropriate section later in this report.

Mr. EDWARD SKILLIN, editor, "The Commonwealth" magazine, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y., advised that this publication, had published several articles by RORTY in recent years concerned with nutrition, communications and advertising. Mr. SKILLIN advised that RORTY is extremely social-minded and is critical of over-expansion in industry. In addition to his articles, he said, RORTY had reviewed several books for the concern. He advised that RORTY's articles indicated that it is RORTY's belief that the urge to make money was having bad effects on our culture, giving as specific examples the bread industry with its use of chemical substitutes, the radio industry with its failure to provide educational programs. Mr. SKILLIN said that it is his impression that RORTY is a Socialist in his economic viewpoint. He advised that RORTY is especially conscious of the abuses of big business and its effects on the individual citizen and wants to correct these specific abuses. Mr. SKILLIN advised that for the last several years RORTY has been employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, where he has been studying the effect of fertilizer and nitrates on the soil. He went on to say that the applicant is intensely anti-Communist in his viewpoints and is thoroughly loyal to this country. He further stated that RORTY is a man of strong convictions, is completely honest, and would be especially valuable in a position of trust with the Government.

NY 123-4919

Mr. EDWARD F. MEAGHER, assistant editor, "The Commonweal", advised that he has known RORTY for approximately five years and has been favorably impressed by him. He said that RORTY is an anti-Communist and is completely devoted to the best interests of this country. He said that he would recommend RORTY without reservation as a man of extraordinarily strong character and complete loyalty. Neither Mr. SKILLIN nor Mr. MEAGHER could furnish any information as to whom RORTY's associates might be.

The following investigation at "Fortune" magazine, Time, Inc., 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y., was conducted by SA RICHARD R. HENDERSON:

Mrs. PATRICIA DIVVER, administrative assistant, advised that RORTY had been employed by "Fortune" magazine on a special assignment from April 5, 1937 to July 15, 1937 on a story concerning the undertaking business, which was never published. In 1938, she said, the records indicate he was used on research for a socialized medicine story. Mrs. DIVVER related that nothing of a derogatory nature appears in the files.

Mr. RALPH D. PAINE, managing editor, advised that he has no recollection of RORTY working for the magazine, but that he is casually acquainted with RORTY. He went on to say that he didn't know him well enough to comment concerning him, but that he knows of nothing unfavorable.

Mr. ALBERT FURTH, executive editor, advised that he has known RORTY casually as a free lance writer for several years. He said that he supervised RORTY's story concerning the undertaking business in 1937, but cannot recall why it was not used. He said that about four months ago RORTY was referred to him by ELLIOTT COHEN, editor of "Commentary", in connection with an article on the ROBESON Peekskill incident, and that RORTY and his wife presented an idea for a broader story related indirectly to the ROBESON trouble and about the Communist Party tactics in organizing such incidents. He said that the story was not used inasmuch as it was not the type of story which the "Fortune" magazine normally carries. Mr. FURTH went on to say that RORTY has had the reputation of being an

NY 123-4919

anti-Communist since he has known him, and he has never been given any reason to question his loyalty. He said that so far as he knows, RORTY is a man of good moral habits, and is honest and reliable.

Mr. HERBERT SOLO, member of the Board of Editors, advised that he has known RORTY since approximately 1932. He said that RORTY is well-known as an able journalist and as a man of independent and unorthodox viewpoints. He stated that RORTY has a strong and dependable character, and is a man of very high moral calibre and integrity. Mr. SOLO advised that he would vouch for RORTY's loyalty to the United States and to the American way of life and our form of government. During the period 1932 to 1935, he said, both he and RORTY, together with other liberals of the time, were actually supporting and aiding the organization of labor unions, which was also the purpose of the Communist Party. He said that because the aims of the Communist Party and RORTY's beliefs were the same in this particular instance, RORTY may have cooperated with the Communists for the first few months, but that he soon learned what Communism meant and has since fought the Communist movement vigorously, both in his actions and in his writings. He went on to say that he has no knowledge of RORTY's views or affiliations prior to 1932, but that RORTY has never indicated to him that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party or for that matter any other party or group. He related that RORTY is a very strong individualist, whose views often differ from the majority, but that these views have never been anything which could be considered subversive or disloyal. He continued by saying that RORTY's primary interests are along the lines of agriculture and the foods we consume. As an example of his "radical views", SOLO pointed out that RORTY believed that people should not eat prepared breakfast foods but should buy the grain and prepare it themselves. He said that RORTY is now connected in some capacity with the United Fruit Company, wherein he is going to Central America to study native diet. Mr. SOLO advised that RORTY has written a great many poems and has had books of poetry published and has also contributed articles to such magazines as "Commentary" and "The Nation". He concluded by saying that he is certain RORTY would never violate any security, either willingly or unwittingly, and would be of inestimable value because of his knowledge of Communist tactics.

NY 123-4919

The October 1948 issue of "Plain Talk", an anti-Communist publication, contains an article by JAMES RORTY entitled, "Operation Donald Duck - And How to Beat It". In this article RORTY states that he had been recently asked to defend embattled university professors who had been subject to attacks by a Red hunting committee of a State Legislature. He went on to explain that in the defense of such professors and others who are under attack by investigating committees, the Communists and the sympathizers get the help of many gullible and naive persons who will defend the right of Communists to conduct political infiltration and propaganda that aim to destroy the democratic institutions for which the appeal is made. He relates that the non-Communist writers are invited to add to the din of a kind of "Donald Duck Bill of Rights Hysteria" that has become standard liberal routine for such occasions and has less and less to do with the case. He concludes his article by saying that "until the defense of genuine liberal position in colleges is organized along positive lines by liberals who are political sophisticates instead of along negative and obsolete lines by fellow-travelers or innocents, Operation Donald Duck will be launched successfully every time a legislative purge goes into action".

Mr. E. S. WHITMAN, publicity director, United Fruit Company, Pier 3, North River, New York, N. Y., advised that the company had sent RORTY and his wife to Honduras and Guatemala in Central America for a six weeks' study of nutrition and health in Central America. He stated that RORTY is an authority on these subjects and is well-known for his writings in the field of food values. He said that RORTY is acting independently of the United Fruit Company and will attempt to sell his articles concerning the health and nutrition situation in the countries visited, and in so doing point out the valuable contributions which the United Fruit Company has made to the peoples of Central America. He said that this would be of great value to the company from a publicity standpoint. Mr. WHITMAN went on to say that RORTY has the reputation of being a man of complete integrity, honesty and reliability. He stated that RORTY is strongly anti-Communist in his viewpoints and has on many occasions indicated his dislike of Communism. Mr. WHITMAN said that his association with RORTY has been exclusively of a business nature, but that he would recommend the applicant without reservation for a position of trust with the government.

NY 123-4919

RORTY, in his application, notes that he had been employed by HENRY HAWES, ERIC HODGINS, and VICTOR LINDLAHR. Records of the State Department reflect that ERIC HODGINS is on leave and is residing at 334 Illehaw Drive, Sarasota, Florida. Inquiry at VICTOR LINDLAHR's office at 1819 Broadway, New York, N. Y., was made, and it was ascertained that LINDLAHR is currently residing at 211 North Coconut Lane, Palm Island, Miami Beach, Florida. The identity of HENRY HAWES could not be established. His name was not listed in the New York City telephone directories, and persons interviewed had never heard of him.

RESIDENCES

Mrs. ROGER N. BALDWIN, 282 West 11th Street, New York, N. Y., advised that RORTY and his wife, the former WINIFRED RAUSHENBUSH, resided in a small apartment at this address for a period of less than a year shortly after their marriage in early 1930's. She said that since the mid 1930's RORTY and his wife have resided in Flatbrookville, New Jersey, except for about three years after the war when they resided in Tennessee while RORTY was employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. She said that she has seen the applicant and his wife only occasionally since that time. Mrs. BALDWIN advised that during the 1930's RORTY had been considered a "radical" because he was critical of capitalistic economics. She said that his viewpoint in the matter of economics runs to the Socialistic theory of economy. Mrs. BALDWIN went on to say that RORTY is actively anti-Communist in his opinions and is completely loyal to the United States. She said that the RORTYS have a grown son and that the applicant has always been a good family man. Mrs. BALDWIN advised that she is not acquainted with RORTY's associates, but would vouch for the loyalty of RORTY and his wife.

Mr. C. LEROY BALDRIDGE, 284 West 11th Street, New York, N. Y., advised that he has been acquainted with RORTY and his wife since the early 1930's. He said that the RORTYS have a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. BALDRIDGE related that RORTY is considered to be an excellent poet, having published many poems in years past, and has written extensively on a free lance basis for some of the more prominent magazines.

b6
b7c

NY 123-4919

He stated that RORTY is considered a radical in the sense of being a non-conformist. He related that the applicant has always been an ardent supporter of the "underdog" and has taken up the cause of people whom he believed to have been treated unfairly no matter what their political or racial backgrounds might be. Mr. BALDRIDGE continued by saying that RORTY was a Socialist in his viewpoints, but not in a subversive sense. He stated that the applicant is extremely anti-Communist and has on many occasions written articles expressing this viewpoint. Mr. BALDRIDGE advised that prior to the United States entering into the war, RORTY had been a strong non-interventionist, but that this attitude was not one of disloyalty, but only because of RORTY's conviction that wars were futile. He said that after the United States' entry into the war, RORTY had conducted himself in every way as a patriotic American. Mr. BALDRIDGE further advised that the applicant's wife, the former WINIFRED RAUSHENBUSH, has collaborated with RORTY on many of his articles, and is an extremely capable sociologist. He concluded by saying that both RORTY and his wife are in his opinion loyal and enthusiastic American citizens, and that RORTY would be ideally suited for a position of trust with the government.

Mr. DAVID BARD, manager, Hotel Chelsea, 222 West 23d Street, New York, N. Y., advised that RORTY and his wife have resided in the hotel on numerous occasions during visits to New York for several years. He said that in early 1950 RORTY had stayed at the hotel for an extended period. He went on to say that the applicant and his wife are known as respectable, law-abiding people, and that nothing has ever come to his attention which would indicate that they were not completely loyal to the United States.

Mr. JULIUS KRAUSS, assistant manager, Hotel Chelsea, furnished the same information as Mr. BARD concerning RORTY and his wife.

Mr. BENJAMIN STOLBERG, journalist and writer, Hotel Chelsea, advised that he has known RORTY for approximately 25 years, and that RORTY makes the Hotel Chelsea his headquarters when he has work to do in New York City. He said that the applicant has been a free lance writer since the early 1930's and has contributed numerous poems and articles to the leading magazines.

Mr. STOLBERG advised that RORTY had been one of the first editors of the publication, "New Masses". He said that RORTY had known that this magazine was a "radical" magazine when

NY 123-4919

he accepted a position as editor, but that he had no knowledge of the Communist control of this publication until after the assumption of his position. He said that RORTY, when he had discovered that the "New Masses" was completely dominated by the Communist Party, had immediately disaffiliated himself from the publication.

Mr. STOLBERG advised that in the 1920's RORTY had been a successful advertising copy writer, but had hated his work so much that he had written a book in the 1930's which was a vicious attack on the advertising industry. He related that in the early 1930's RORTY had been on a committee for FOSTER and FORD, the Communist Party candidates in the 1932 elections, but that RORTY had never become involved with the Communist Party and was not the sort of person who could take orders from any group.

He continued by saying that RORTY is strongly against the abuses of big business and has always been willing to fight for someone he thought was being persecuted. He recalled that RORTY had been a member of the Non-Partisan Committee to Aid FRED BEAL. BEAL, he said, had been a Communist Party member in one of the southern states who had been convicted of murder not on the merits of the case but because he was a Communist Party member. He continued saying that BEAL had finally been released, had gone to Russia, and had subsequently returned disillusioned, and said that he would rather be in jail in the United States than free in Russia. RORTY, in connection with this case, was not interested in whether BEAL was a Communist Party member, but in the fact that he felt that BEAL was not getting a fair trial.

Mr. STOLBERG related that RORTY's "radicalism" of the 1920's and 1930's, when he was against anything conventional, has changed, and that at the present time RORTY is avidly anti-Communist and conservative in his politics. Mr. STOLBERG advised that RORTY is a man of strong integrity and convictions and is above reproach in his loyalty to this country. He said that he would recommend him without reservation to a position of trust with the United States Government.

Miss SUZANNE LA FOLLETTE, Hotel Chelsea, manager and editor of the magazine, "Freeman", advised that she has known RORTY since the early 1920's. She stated that RORTY, during

NY 123-4919

the 1920's and 1930's, was known as a radical because of his non-conformist viewpoints, and that at one time he had been active in the support of FOSTER and FORD, the Communist Party nominees in the presidential elections of 1932. She said that he had told her of the chicanery of the Communist Party and has to the best of her knowledge strongly opposed Communists since that time. She continued by saying that prior to this time RORTY's vital interest in the "downtrodden" and his concern over the welfare of the working man often brought him into agreement with the program of the Communist Party during this period, but that RORTY was never amenable to discipline and never became affiliated with the Party. Miss LA FOLLETTE went on to say that RORTY is against the abuses of big business and is Socialistic in his economic viewpoint. She said that she was sure that this interest in Socialism never went to the extreme of the Trotskyite viewpoint. She stated that during the early 1940's, RORTY had done publicity work for the Workers Defense League, a Socialist group. Miss LA FOLLETTE said that the RORTYS have lived in Flatbrookville, New Jersey, for about fifteen years except for the time recently spent in Tennessee, and that prior to this the couple had resided in Westport, Connecticut. Miss LA FOLLETTE advised that she would recommend RORTY and his wife as loyal American citizens and that RORTY is extremely anti-Communist in his attitude. She further stated that RORTY's integrity is unquestioned and his associations in recent years have been with individuals who have actively fought the menace of Communism.

Information concerning the FOSTER-FORD Committee, the Non-Partisan Committee to Aid FRED BEAL, and the Workers Defense League, referred to by Mr. STOLBERG and Miss LA FOLLETTE, will be set forth later in this report.

REFERENCES

Mr. ROBERT MORRIS, attorney, 40 Exchange Place, New York, N. Y., advised that he had been Special Counsel to District Attorney GEORGE FINELLI of Westchester County, and had been in charge of the investigation of the incident which had occurred at Peekskill when members of civic groups in the vicinity had battled with the Communists at the time PAUL ROBESON had staged a concert in August of 1949. Mr. MORRIS stated that

NY 123-4919

the facts of the incidents which had occurred at the ROBESON concerts at Peekskill on August 27, 1949 and September 4, 1949 had been presented to the Grand Jury at Westchester County, and it had been found that the incidents had been Communist instigated and that elements of ROBESON supporters who had done battle with civic groups had been actually parts of the military groups of the Communist Party. He said that he first met RORTY when the applicant and his wife had contacted him in connection with their writing an article setting forth the details of the incident. He advised that this article later appeared in "Commentary" magazine. Mr. MORRIS related that RORTY and his wife were well aware of the facts surrounding the Peekskill incident and were in general agreement with him that this incident was provoked by the Communist Party. He said that RORTY and his wife are extremely anti-Communist in attitude and impressed him as being substantial and loyal American citizens.

Professor SIDNEY HOOK, New York University, Washington Square, New York, N. Y., advised that he has known RORTY since the early 1930's. He said that RORTY, during the 1920's and 1930's, had allied himself in many causes with the Communists, but that he never knew him to be a member of the Communist Party. He said that RORTY had broken completely with the Communists in 1933 and has been strongly anti-Communist since that time. He said that RORTY has an acute social consciousness and is a strong supporter of democracy in all phases of life. He stated that RORTY is a man of strong principles, is thoroughly reliable, and is unquestionably loyal to this country. Professor HOOK advised that he would recommend the applicant without reservation for any position of trust with the government.

Mr. SOL LEVITAS, editor of the "New Leader", an anti-Communist publication, 7 East 15th Street, New York, N. Y., advised that he has known RORTY for fifteen to twenty years. He stated that in the 1930's RORTY was aggressively anti-big business and was always taking up the causes of minority groups whom he felt were being oppressed. He said that often the causes which RORTY espouses were those of the "left wing", but that RORTY had never affiliated himself with the Communist Party or the Socialists in the sense of being a Party member.

NY 123-4919

He said that RORTY, during the 1920's and 1930's, was the product of an era, and that he had expressed his dissatisfactions with conditions as they were. He went on to say that it is his impression that RORTY is not anti-capitalist but is anti-big business and its abuses. He described RORTY as being vigorously anti-Communist in the last ten years, and has stated that the applicant has great personal integrity, is thoroughly loyal to the United States, and has in recent years associated only with people who are anti-Communist in their viewpoints. Mr. LEVITAS advised that RORTY would be eminently qualified for a position of trust, especially if such a position concerned itself with combatting Communism.

Mr. ELLIOTT COHEN, editor of the magazine, "Commentary", 34 West 33d Street, New York, N. Y., advised that RORTY, during the 1930's, was an independent radical. He said that the applicant was extremely social conscious and had always been a great champion of minority groups and labor. He further stated that RORTY has always been vitally concerned with civil liberties, and that on many occasions in the past his support of various groups has been paralleled with that of the Communists. Mr. COHEN related that RORTY's support of what he considered to be the oppressed and the underprivileged was a matter of his own personal philosophy and had no concern whatsoever with politics. Mr. COHEN went on to say that RORTY had been one of a group of writers who, during the 1930's, had been disillusioned with capitalism and had spoken out against the economic and social deficiencies of the system. He went on to say that RORTY has been strongly anti-Communist for the last ten years. He further stated that RORTY and his wife are people of the greatest integrity and are above reproach in their loyalty to this country. He said that their associates are people whose loyalty has never been questioned and that he would recommend the applicant for any position of trust with the government.

MISCELLANEOUS

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, in 1941 advised that JAMES RORTY was a member of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners in December 1931.

The "New York Times" on August 9, 10 and 12, 1932 carried articles which note that JAMES RORTY, poet, resident of Westport, Connecticut, was one of the writers in the delegation

NY 123-4919

of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners who tried to see President HOOVER re the treatment of bonus marchers.

In an article entitled, "Operation Donald Duck", written by RORTY and published in the October 1943 issue of "Plain Talk", RORTY mentions that in 1932 he was one of the writers who represented one of the "Communist-Liberal United Fronts" who went to see President HOOVER in connection with the bonus marchers, and went on to say that he and other writers were "stooging for the Communists".

The National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners has been declared by the Attorney General to come within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The November and December 1932 and the February, March, April and May 1933 copies of the "Student Review", published by the National Student League, note that JAMES RORTY was a contributing editor.

The Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, on December 18, 1948 cited the National Student League as follows:

1. "A 'front organization of the Communist Party'. (Attorney General FRANCIS BIDDLE in re HARRY BRIDGES, May 28, 1942, page 10)
2. "The Communists' front organization for students, about which EARL BROWDER, former General Secretary of the Communist Party, said, 'From the beginning it has been clearly revolutionary in its program and activities'. (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report March 29, 1944, page 119; also cited in Report January 3, 1939, page 80)
3. "A 'well-known Communist front'. (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1943, page 99)

4. "The Communist Party has sought to win masses of student youth to the Party's objectives. Particular efforts have been made *** to organize college students into a revolutionary organization. For this purpose the National Students League was created. *** The main office of the National Students League (since merged with the American Students Union) was shared with the Red Sport Union in New York, an avowed Communist organization, and upon the walls appeared the Soviet emblem of hammer and sickle."
(Massachusetts House Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1938, pages 135 and 527)
5. "A mass revolutionary student organization. (Report filed with Wisconsin Committee on the Investigation of Charges of Communistic Teachings and Other Subversive Activities. Wisconsin State Senate Journal, September 21, 1935, page 2415)
6. "A Communist student front.
(RAPP-COUDERT Committee, Interim Report, December 1, 1941, page 14)"

A pamphlet entitled, "Culture and the Crisis", put out in 1932 by the League of Professional Groups for FOSTER and FORD, lists JAMES HORTY as a member. FOSTER and FORD were the Communist Party nominees for President and Vice President in the 1932 elections. The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The aforementioned pamphlet states that in September 1932 a group of 50 American writers, painters, teachers and other professional workers declared their support of FOSTER and FORD and the Communist Party ticket in the 1932 national elections. In a statement given to the press this group denounced the major political parties and the Socialists and stated that "the only effective way to protest against the chaos, the wastefulness and the indescribable misery in the

NY 123-4919

present economic system is to vote for Communist candidates". It went on to say that the Communist Party alone worked to educate and organize classes dispossessed by the present system so as to make them an efficient instrument for establishing a new society based on equal opportunities to work, equal distribution of income, and ownership by the people of the national resources.

RORTY, in his article, "Operation Donald Duck", previously referred to, stated that he had been the secretary of the League of Professional Groups for FOSTER and FORD, and said that he had resigned. In this article RORTY stated that by 1933 he had learned that "the American Communist Party was neither democratic nor autocratic, but that it was the strictly controlled instrument of a totalitarian police state whose headquarters were in Moscow".

A letter dated September 21, 1934 from the Communist League of America, 144 Second Avenue, New York, N. Y., addressed to JAMES RORTY, Westport, Connecticut, addresses RORTY as "Dear Comrade RORTY", and enclosed a list of the contacts of the Communist League throughout the country. This letter was found in the possession of the applicant at the time of his arrest at El Centro, California, on February 26, 1935.

JAMES RORTY, in an article appearing in the "New York Post" on March 2, 1935, refers to his arrest in El Centro, California, and his subsequent expulsion from California, and explains that he had come into the Imperial Valley as part of a nation-wide observation tour, and that the local authorities interpreted his interest in labor relations as dangerous radicalism, had arrested him and had run him out of the State. In this article RORTY points out that at the time of his arrest his car was searched and assorted radical literature had been taken therefrom. He subsequently mentioned that the sheriff had retained a list of the subscribers of the defunct, "Militant", an organ of the no longer existent Communist League of America, forwarded to him by the editor. He said that the editor had addressed him, then a member of the now defunct American Workers Party, as "Dear Comrade".

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised on August 9, 1941 that the Trotskyites in the United States had been expelled from the Communist Party in 1928,

NY 123-4919

and had organized the Communist League of America. He went on to say that the policies and principles of the Trotskyites were generally more left wing and internationalist in character than the policies of the STALIN-controlled Communist Party. This informant advised that during the latter part of 1934 this group announced its break with the official Communist Party, and issued a call for the formation of a separate revolutionary party in opposition to and against all reactionary forces, including the Communist Party, U.S.A.

At that time, he said, another revolutionary group, the American Workers Party, existed, and this group joined with the Communist League of America and formed the Workers Party of the U.S.A. This group, according to the informant, existed for only a short time, as TROTSKY decided that it should dissolve and its members should join the Socialist Parties in the respective countries. He went on to say that the majority of the members joined the Socialist Party, and the minority formed the Revolutionary Workers League of America, whose policies were extremely radical and revolutionary. In 1939, according to this informant, the Revolutionary Workers League of America split into two groups, with each one maintaining the name, one publishing a pamphlet called "Revolt", and the other one putting out "The Fighting Worker".

The aforementioned briefed background information concerning the Revolutionary Workers League of America is set forth at this time inasmuch as reference is made to this organization later in the report.

The Revolutionary Workers League of America has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

A circular letter dated July 7, 1936, carrying the letterhead of the "Socialist Call", official campaign weekly of the Socialist Party, U.S.A., lists JAMES MORTY as a contributor, according to Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability.

Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advises that a solicitation letter dated November 8, 1937 indicates that JAMES MORTY was affiliated with the Pioneer

NY 123-4919

Publishers. Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, has advised that the Pioneer Publishers is wholly owned and controlled by the Socialist Workers Party. The Socialist Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

A solicitation letter carrying the letterhead, "Non-Partisan Committee for Defense of FRED BEAL, 19 West 44th Street", dated March 17, 1938, lists JAMES RORTY as a member. This letter states that the committee was formed to seek the release of FRED BEAL, holding that BEAL's political views and activities were immaterial to the issue of whether BEAL was guilty of murder or not, and that the committee was interested in preventing an innocent man from being punished for trying to organize labor. Background information concerning the FRED BEAL case has been previously set forth under the comments of BENJAMIN STOLBERG.

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that a handbill dated March 18, 1938 indicates that JAMES RORTY, writer, was scheduled to be a speaker at a "Mass Rally Against the Coming War", at the Manhattan Plaza, 66 East 4th Street, New York, N. Y. This handbill stated that the rally was under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.

JAMES RORTY was the signer of a circular letter dated August 1, 1938 soliciting financial support for the raising of a fund of \$200 for the repatriation of RUSSELL BLACKWELL, an American militant who had just been released from Buena Vista Prison in Madrid and was at that time being detained at the American Consulate in Valencia. The return address of this circular was the Demos Press, 28 East 14th Street, New York, N. Y. The Demos Press, 28 East 14th Street, was the publisher of "Revolt", the official organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of America, information concerning which has been previously set forth in this report.

Concerning RUSSELL BLACKWELL, Confidential Informant T-6, another government agency which conducts security and intelligence investigations, in February 1941 advised that RUSSELL BLACKWELL had been a member of the Revolutionary Workers League of America, which they described as a small organization, but potent in extreme situations, and composed of highly trained leaders formerly of the official Communist Party.

NY 123-4919

Confidential Informant T-6 advised that JAMES RORTY was one of the signers of a statement issued in 1939 by the League for Cultural Freedom and Socialism, which stated in part, "The idea of democracy must come to flower in a Socialist Democracy. In the revolutionary reconstruction of society lies the hope of the world, the promise of a free humanity, a new art, an unrestricted science." This informant advised that the League was composed of Trotskyites.

The "Socialist Appeal", issue of June 6, 1939, carried an article entitled, "Left Wing Writers Form League, Issue Manifesto - Condemn Stalinism, HOOK-DEWEY Committee as Catering to Socialist Reaction", and indicated that thirty established figures in American intellectual life announced the forming at that time of the League for Cultural Freedom and Socialism. The manifesto was addressed to all artists and writers who are concerned with the present drift of the United States to reaction and war, and contained the name, JAMES RORTY, among the first signatories.

The "Socialist Appeal" was published by the Socialist Workers Party until 1940 when its name was changed to "The Militant". It is to be noted that members of the Socialist Workers Party are commonly known as Trotskyites, and that the Socialist Workers Party comes under the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The author, in his article entitled, "Operation Donald Duck", states that during the mid 1930's he and other New York Socialists and Liberals attempted to organize a third force on the intellectual front and called it the League for Cultural Freedom. In this article he points out that few of its members had even been "fellow-travelers", but that the organization failed, ostensibly for lack of money but actually because of the inability of its members to "agree on the obligations entailed by our citizenship in a capitalist democracy or on the position occupied by the Communists in the political spectrum".

NY 123-4919

RORTY in his application notes that he is a member of the Authors League. Regarding the Authors League of America, Confidential Informant T-22, another government agency which conducts personnel and security investigations, advised that the Authors League of America is Communist infiltrated, and that some of its members are known to belong to the Communist Party. However, according to this informant, membership in the Authors League of America is not in itself indicative of Communist Party sympathies.

Confidential Informant T-13, of known reliability, advised that he had known RORTY years ago, but could not specifically comment concerning the applicant except to say that he is generally known in literary circles as being anti-Communist.

LOUIS F. BUDENZ, Professor at Fordham University, and formerly editor of the "Daily Worker", advised SA WILLIAM J. MC CARTHY that he has known RORTY since the early 1930's and that during the early 1930's he had visited at the home of RORTY prior to his, BUDENZ', entrance into the Communist Party in 1935. BUDENZ advised that he had never seen RORTY after 1935, but heard RORTY mentioned at Communist Party headquarters and at the "Daily Worker" as being anti-Communist and a Trotskyite. BUDENZ advised that he has never heard of RORTY as being anything except anti-Communist, but that because of the many years since he has had any contact with RORTY, he does not feel qualified to comment concerning RORTY's present politics or loyalty.

JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, self-confessed Communist courier, advised SA's THOMAS G. SPENCER and FRANCIS X. PLANT in 1949 that he had first met JAMES RORTY in 1926 through MICHAEL GOLD, a well-known Communist, when both RORTY and GOLD had been editors of the "New Masses". CHAMBERS went on to say that RORTY was not a Communist and had never become one. He described him "as being some kind of left of center liberal and I would not think that he was too far left of center". He said that he has only seen RORTY a half-dozen times thereafter. CHAMBERS went on to say that he believed that RORTY had been connected with the Tennessee Valley Authority in recent years and had the impression that RORTY is an anti-Communist.

NY 123-4919

A form letter dated September 27, 1939 on the letterhead of the "Keep America Out of War Congress", 22 East 17th Street, New York, N. Y., refers to JAMES RORTY as being among those present at a meeting on September 21, 1939 of a group of writers and publicists who were in general agreement with the program of the Keep America Out of War Congress. This group met to discuss how they might be useful in the fight to stay out of war and refers to the fact that this group issued a publication called, "Uncensored".

The letterhead of the "New York Committee of the Keep America Out of War Congress", 22 East 17th Street, New York, N. Y., in September 1940 listed JAMES RORTY as a member of the New York Council.

The following information is set out regarding the Keep America Out of War Congress: In April 1941 the Keep America Out of War Congress distributed literature in Washington, D. C. advertising a meeting of the Congress to be held May 30, 31, and June 1, 1941. This pamphlet reflect that the KAOWC was launched in 1938 and organized to promote peace, to extend democracy and to strengthen security against want. The circular stated that this organization worked for:

1. An amendment to the Constitution to give the people the right to vote for war or peace, and that in the meantime Congress should authorize an advisory referendum before it votes to declare war.
2. A negotiated peace, not an appeasement to HITLER's peace, but a just peace for the belligerents and the conquered nations.
3. World cooperation among nations with justice for all.
4. An extension of democracy, civil liberties, and security at home.

The circular advised that the organization works against:

1. Armament economy.

NY 123-4919

2. Extension of conscription or allowing it to become permanent in peace time.
3. Dangerous legislation that will draw us closer to the war.
4. Intolerance, racial discrimination, denial of workers' rights, and infringement of freedom of speech.

Among the members of the Governing Committee of the KAOWC was listed ~~NORMAN THOMAS~~, a leading figure in the Socialist Party, U.S.A.

In June 1941, Confidential Informant T-6 advised that the KAOWC was an anti-war, anti-convoy, and anti-British organization, and was connected with the Second National Anti-War Congress held in Washington, May 30 to June 1, 1941. This congress, according to the informant, was sponsored by the Anti-War Group headed by America First.

A solicitation letter dated June 3, 1941 on the letterhead of the "Committee for Emergency Aid to Refugees" lists JAMES RORTY as a sponsor. The letter indicates that the Committee for Emergency Aid to Refugees was a non-partisan body which was appealing for medicine, clothing, food, and money to help anti-Fascist refugees in Europe.

The letterhead of the "New World Resettlement Fund, Inc.", 2 West 43d Street, New York, N. Y., in January 1941 listed JAMES RORTY as being one of the people behind this fund. A pamphlet issued by this organization indicated that its purpose was to afford Spanish refugees a place of refuge in Ecuador.

Miss SUZANNE LA FOLLETTE, previously referred to in this report, advised that the New World Resettlement Fund had as its aim the resettlement of European refugees in Central and South America, and was not made up of any particular political or ideological group.

NY 123-4919

The letterheads and circulars of the Workers Defense League in 1941, 1942 and 1943 list JAMES RORTY as a member of the National Committee. The House Committee on Un-American Propaganda Activities in its 1938 report, page 678, reported that "just as the Communist Party has as its defense movement the International Labor Defense, so has the Socialist Party the Workers Defense League. The latter organization was formed in May 1936 by leading members of the Socialist Party. The Executive Committee of the League is --- composed of Socialists and extreme left wingers".

The "Daily Worker", issue of December 16, 1944, contained an article by DOROTHY LOEB in which it was stated that "the League, which is solidly controlled by Trotskyites, NORMAN THOMAS Socialists, and Social Democrats, has long since established its direction. This can be summed up in the simple reminder that this is the organization that is leading a fight in behalf of the eighteen Minneapolis Trotskyites jailed under federal conviction for sedition".

The "Daily Worker" is a daily East Coast Communist newspaper.

Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, advised in 1946 that the Workers Defense League was a front organization for the NORMAN THOMAS Socialists.

A letter from Cooperative Distributors, 30 Irving Place, New York, N. Y., dated October 25, 1934, and addressed to Mr. JAMES RORTY, General Delivery, Chicago, Illinois, was found in the applicant's possession at the time of his arrest in El Centro, California, on February 26, 1935.

Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, who is well-acquainted with business concerns in the New York area, advised that the Cooperative Distributors was an organization incorporated in November 1932, and is owned and operated by its member buyers.

Confidential Informant T-10, of known reliability, advised in 1942 that JAMES RORTY had been a conservative member of the Board of Directors of Cooperative Distributors. The informant went on to say that at its inception the Cooperative

NY 123-4919

Distributors was completely free of Communist Party domination, but that constant efforts had been made by the Communists to infiltrate between 1937 and 1941. This informant said that at this time seven of the fifteen directors were "extremely left wing", and this informant advised that in 1942 the conservative members of the board, JAMES RORTY among them, had wanted to liquidate the organization because of the control by this Communist element.

The letterhead of the "Post-War World Council", 112 East 19th Street, New York, N. Y., in 1942 listed JAMES RORTY as being a member of the National Committee.

Mr. GEORGE J. MENTZER, American Jewish Committee, 39 Broadway, New York, N. Y., advised SA W. PAUL MC WHORTER in 1944 that the ~~Post-War~~ World Council was formerly known as the Provincial Committee for Democratic Peace and "Keep America Out of War Committee or Congress". He said the members of the organization were to fight against war and to fight more for democracy at home.

Confidential Informant T-11, of unknown reliability, advised that the Post-War World Council was formed about 1941 by NORMAN THOMAS. This informant advised that it was a pacifist organization and has distributed literature to that effect. The informant went on to say that its activities centered around NORMAN THOMAS and it was undoubtedly a Socialist front for those who had been opposed to our participation in the war and are generally known to have entertained pacifist tendencies.

The Post-War World Council was the publisher of RORTY's pamphlets entitled, "Brother Jim Crow", in 1943, and "Saboteurs of Victory", in 1945.

"Brother Jim Crow" is a pamphlet describing the present status of the negro in American industry, and decries the discrimination existing in many American industries. The article discusses the Fair Employment Practices Committee and sets out progress made in opening industries for negro employment.

"Saboteurs of Victory", written by RORTY in conjunction with one IRVING BARSHOP, is a pamphlet which discusses the danger of returning soldiers being anti-labor in attitude because of unfavorable publicity given labor during the war.

NY 123-4919

A solicitation letter dated December 1, 1942 carrying the letterhead of the "National Committee of the Civil Rights Defense Committee", 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., lists JAMES RORTY as a member of this committee. This letter announces that an operetta was to be held to raise funds for Christmas presents for the children of the defendants in the Minneapolis sedition trial. It noted that it had been a year since the eighteen CIO trade unionists and Socialist Workers Party members had been convicted.

Confidential Informant T-6 advised in 1942 that JAMES RORTY was a member of the National Committee of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, and described this organization as a group which sought to aid the followers of TROTSKY, who were being tried for sedition in Minneapolis. This informant advised that the inclusion of RORTY's name on such a committee indicated that RORTY was not a supporter of the Communist Party which opposed the defendants.

A form letter dated August 26, 1943 lists JAMES RORTY as a member of the National Committee of the Civil Rights Defense Committee. This letter headed "Help Free KELLY POSTAL" solicited funds to aid KELLY POSTAL.

Confidential Informant T-12, of known reliability, advised that KELLY POSTAL had been a member of the Socialist Workers Party who was a union official of the Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO, who was convicted of embezzlement of union funds in 1943. This informant further advised that the Civil Rights Defense Committee was a Socialist Workers Party front organization.

Confidential Informant T-14, a municipal agency which conducts security investigations, advised that JAMES RORTY's name appeared on the sponsors' list of the CARLO TRESKA Memorial Meeting held at Webster Hall, New York City, on January 11, 1945.

Confidential Informant T-15, of known reliability, advised that CARLO TRESKA, born in Italy in 1879, had come to the United States in 1904, and has through the years been

NY 123-4919

considered an anarchist and labor agitator. TRESCA was the editor of "Il Martello", an anarchist newspaper published in New York City. According to this informant, TRESCA was anti-Fascist and anti-Communist, and that he was assassinated in New York City on January 11, 1943.

Confidential Informants T-16, T-17, T-18, T-19, T-20 and T-21, of known reliability, who are well-acquainted with the more prominent Communists in the New York area, could furnish no information concerning JAMES RORTY.

Confidential Informant T-22 advised that they could add no additional pertinent information to that already known.

Mr. HOWARD BELL, Postmaster, Woodstock, New York, advised SA LOUIS P. HURLEY that Mrs. EVA BEARD, the applicant's sister, lived alone on the Woodstock West Hurley Road, and is regarded as being of questionable mentality. He said that he is not acquainted with the applicant and knew of nothing which would reflect on the loyalty of the applicant's sister.

Mr. RICHARD BRONSON, Assistant to the Postmaster, furnished the same information concerning Mrs. EVA BEARD.

Mr. BELL advised that Mrs. MARIAN BULLARD, another sister of the applicant who resided in Woodstock, had recently died. Mrs. BULLARD was a writer who kept to herself, and nothing of a derogatory nature had ever come to his attention.

Miss GRACE RYER, Middletown High School, advised SA HURLEY that JAMES RORTY had graduated from the high school in 1908. She said that the RORTY family had been prominent in the community and had enjoyed an excellent reputation in all respects. She said that the applicant had not lived in Middletown since his youth, and she could, therefore, not comment concerning him. She stated one sister of RORTY had recently died and that another still resided in the vicinity.

Confidential Informant T-23, of known reliability, advised that Mrs. EVA BEARD had been a patient at the Hospital for the Insane in Middletown in 1942 and 1943, and went on to

NY 123-4919

say that she had been committed because of "delusions", but that she had been released after making a satisfactory adjustment. This informant went on to say that Mrs. BEARD's maternal aunt, three paternal uncles, as well as a deceased brother, whose names were not known to him, had been insane. This informant went on to say that he had known the RORTY family from its long residence in Goshen and Middletown and advised that it was a prominent and well-known family. This informant related that the family was regarded as "brilliant intellectually" and also as "eccentric". He went on to say that he could not amplify or be specific in his comments. This informant further stated that he is not acquainted with the applicant or his wife and had never heard anything which would reflect adversely on the loyalty of any of the members of the RORTY family.

CREDIT

Records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, checked by SA [REDACTED] reflect a satisfactory credit rating for RORTY and his wife, and contain no pertinent information as to their background.

b6
b7c

Mr. LEONARD BELMORE, Identification Officer, Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Kingston, New York, advised SA LOUIS F. HURLEY that there is no commercial credit check available on residents of Woodstock, New York.

CRIMINAL

Records of the New York City Police Department, checked by SA AUGUST J. MICEK, contain no criminal record for RORTY or his wife.

Mr. LEONARD BELMORE, Identification Officer, Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Kingston, New York, advised SA HURLEY that he could locate no criminal record on the applicant or Mrs. BULLARD or Mrs. BEARD, the sisters of the applicant.

Detective Sergeant DONALD B. YORK, Middletown Police Department, advised SA HURLEY that he could locate no arrest record on the applicant or his family.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

NY 123-4919

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd)

which devotes space to JAMES RORTY among other Americans. Issues of this publication were forwarded to the Bureau by letter of August 26, 1942. It is requested that the Bureau review the appropriate section of this magazine for information contained therein concerning JAMES RORTY.

The material contained in New York letter of April 17, 1926 in the case entitled, "Re: Communist Activities, New York File 61-3", has been destroyed. It is therefore requested that the Bureau review this letter for information concerning JAMES RORTY.

NY 123-4919

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The identities of the Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA JOHN B. BJORKLUND, JR., dated at New York, February 6, 1951, are as follows:

T-1

[redacted]
New York, N. Y.

T-2

Confidential Informant [redacted]
who was mentioned in the report of
SA F. H. SCHMIDT, dated January 29,
1941, at Chicago, entitled, "National
Committee for the Defense of Political
Prisoners".

T-3

[redacted] who furnished the infor-
mation to the Detroit Office August 9,
1941, in connection with the case en-
titled, "Revolutionary Workers League
of America".

T-4

Bureau letter in instant case.

T-5

[redacted]

T-6

ONI, 3d Naval District.

T-7

[redacted], known to the Bureau.

T-8

[redacted]
New York,
N. Y.

T-9

[redacted]

T-10

[redacted]
New York, N. Y.,
[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

NY 123-4919

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd)

T-11	[redacted] New York, N. Y.	
T-12	[redacted] New York City Police Department.	
T-13	[redacted]	
T-14	Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, contacted by SA AUGUST J. MICEK.	
T-15	Bureau letter to New York, January 28, 1943, re [redacted]	
T-16	[redacted] contacted by SA [redacted]	
T-17	[redacted] contacted by SA [redacted]	
T-18	[redacted] contacted by SA [redacted]	
T-19	[redacted] contacted by SA [redacted]	
T-20	[redacted] contacted by SA [redacted]	
T-21	[redacted] contacted by SA [redacted]	
T-22	G-2, 1st Army Headquarters, Governors Island, contacted by SA JOHN J. DIXSON.	
T-23	[redacted] Middletown, New York.	
T-24	Information furnished the Washington Field Office by Confidential Informant S-3, which supposedly came from a report furnished the Japanese Consul in Los Angeles by an employee of Amtorg during 1938. Authenticity of this report was not established. See report of SA R. W. WALL, dated August 25, 1941, at Washington, D. C., re Amtorg Trading Corporation.	

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

b7D



46.8

FEB 9 1951

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Jones	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON S32 FROM SAN FRANCISCO 2-9-51 6-30 PM

DIRECTOR FBI DEFERRED

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, AKA, VOA. REBUFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH SEVEN TWO FOUR EIGHT. REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED AMSD FEB. THIRTEEN NEXT.

KIMBALL

END AND HOLD PLS

EX - 83
RECORDED - 45/ 123-7248-17
MAR 26 1951
79

APR 10 1951

[Handwritten mark]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, San Francisco (Your file)

DATE: 2-8-51

FROM : ~~Hauts~~ Director, FBI

SUBJECT: James H. Rorty

VOA

SR

- (✓) The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to immediately submit a report. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau.

Report submitted _____

Report will be submitted 2/13/51

Reason for delay _____

NOT RECORDED

MAR 26 1951

- () Advise Bureau re status of this case.
- () Advise Bureau when report may be expected.
- (✓) Surep immediately.

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FEB - 7 1951	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top Serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

123-7248

DIRECTOR

DEFERRED

11-13 AM

RN

b6
b7C

EX. - 83 KIMBALL

APR 10 1951

RECORDED - 45 123-7248-18
MAR 26 1951
79

79

RECORDED - 45

19

Date: February 21, 1951

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGERTo: Mr. Donald L. Nicholson
Chief
Division of Security
Department of State
515 Twenty-second Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JAMES H. BROOK FORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 80th Congress
(VOICES OF AMERICA)

There are transmitted herewith ^{eleven} reports covering the investigation conducted by this Bureau concerning the above-named person:

Applicant was first associated with Communist Groups in late 1920 and early 1930's. He then became associated with Socialist Workers Party Groups and later Socialist Groups. See pages 29 through 34 of the New York report.

Information re association with Socialist Groups is left in to show his political changes.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

JGS:PEL

123-7248

Enclosure

123-7248-21
FEB 21 5 20 PM '51

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. **101-2622**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE 2/15/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/18, 20, 21, 25, 29/50; 1/2, 6, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 26, 27, 29/51	REPORT MADE BY ELSUM G. HEDGES, SA 1bh
TITLE JAMES HAMCOCK RORTY aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY, STATE DEPARTMENT, Public Law 402 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA)
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p><i>P. b.</i></p> <p><i>G. K.</i></p> <p><i>per</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>Background information from "Who's Who in America" set forth. Files of Security Division, Department of State, contain a form number 57 in which applicant furnished following information: Resigned as editor in 1926 from "New Masses", described herein, because of "political differences"; furnished answer of "no" to Question related to being member of CP or any Communist organization; served during 1932 and 1933 as Secretary of League of Professional Groups for FOSTER and FORD... "Tried to work in a kind of united front in the CP"; "resigned and denounced the CP in 1933." Book by RORTY entitled "Where Life is Better" in 1936, contains following comments: RORTY stated he appreciated the compliment that an individual was convinced he was a "Revolutionary", a "Communist", but he is not a member of the CP; stated he held "radical and social views" to which he was fully entitled; stated he was convinced an American writer cannot fully discharge responsibilities if he accepts the discipline of any revolutionary party or the implicit bribes involved in the acceptance of well paid literary employment offered to him under Capitalism; has at various times attempted to aid and support the activities of the CP and the Workers' Party and shall continue to do so;</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: right;"> <p><i>100-072 A</i></p> <p><i>88 P-AW</i></p> <p><i>10/1/51</i></p> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>AGENCY <u>100-111-100</u></p> <p>REC'D <u>3-1-51</u></p> <p>REP'T FILE <u>3-1-51</u></p> <p>BY <u>[Signature]</u></p> </div> <div style="width: 70%;"> <p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> </div> </div>			
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 1 - Washington Field		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p>100-7277</p> <p>MAR 26 1951</p> <p>79</p> <p><i>6/27</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: right;"> <p>RECORDED - 45</p> <p>INDEXED - 45</p> </div> </div>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

his function is to tell the truth, for example, telling that the CP does not always tell the truth; has great respect for many members and sympathizers of the CP, but disagrees profoundly with many of their politics and tactics; for this he has been denounced in the Communist press as a "counter-revolutionary." Relating to the question of "Why build a revolutionary movement?" stated that the utter bankruptcy and chaos of the Capitalist economy and Capitalist culture is imminent; it is therefore necessary to erect scaffolding of a revolutionary receivership to take over the bankruptcy; stated it is not true that revolutionaries destroy the State power; social revolutionaries can and do take power only when the Capitalistic State has destroyed itself. RORTY, in an article in 1947 entitled "To a 'Friend of the Soviets' ", admonishes individual for accepting and believing "Communist propaganda"; states he knows the individual to be misinformed and deceived. Reference LEVINE recommends. T-1 of unknown reliability, advised in 1942 that RORTY said he was never a Communist but had worked for the CP; T-1 also stated in 1942 RORTY's attitude indicated he favored the "New Order in Germany". Files of WPD contain copy of letterhead, dated July 19, 1933, bearing the name of JAMES RORTY, of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, which has been described within purview of Executive Order 9835. Files of HCUA reflect JAMES RORTY listed as contributor to the following periodicals described herein: "The Liberator", "Voice of Labor", and "New Masses". Files of HCUA also reflected pamphlet published in 1932 for the League of Professional Groups for FOSTER and FORD, which pledged the support in the national election to the CP and its candidates, included the name of JAMES RORTY. Files of CSC and G-2 contain no additional pertinent information not otherwise set forth in this report. Passport issued RORTY in December, 1950 for the purpose of travel to South America. T-2, of unknown reliability, advised in 1932 that JAMES RORTY, Secretary of the League of Professional Groups, was associated with a "Hunger March" to Washington, D. C. in which part

of the participants were members and organizers of the CP. Files of Credit Bureau negative. T-3, of known reliability, who has a personal knowledge of many national and local Communists, advised RORTY is not known to him as a member of the CP. Other confidential informants, conversant with activities of the CP, can furnish no information concerning RORTY.

- RUC -

REFERENCES: Bureau file 123-7248.
Bureau letter dated December 12, 1950.
New Haven letter dated December 14, 1950.
New York letter dated January 5, 1951.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 1950-1951 edition of "Who's Who in America" contains the following information concerning JAMES RORTY, identified as born March 30, 1890; author of "Children of the Sun," 1926, "Our Master's Voice", 1934, "Order on the Air", 1934, "Where Life is Better", 1936, "American Medicine Mobilizes", 1939, and "Tomorrow's Food" (with J. PHILIP NORMAN), 1947.

"The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature", maintained by the Library of Congress, which contains an index to certain periodicals, reflects that more than one hundred fifty articles and poems had been written under the name of JAMES RORTY from 1915 to 1950. These poems and articles appeared in the following magazines: Nation, Literary Digest, Survey, Century, Sunset, Harper's Magazine, Saturday Review of Literature, Overland Monthly, Independent, New Republic, American Mercury, Commonwealth, Parents' Magazine, Poetry, Forum, Current History, Scholastic, Collier's, Ladies Home Journal, Science Digest, and Reader's Digest.

Files of the Security Division, Department of State contain an application form number 57, dated October 10, 1950, signed by JAMES RORTY, which included the following information: Editor from 1924 to 1926 for "New Masses" and "resigned because of political differences"; contains answer of "no" relating to question "are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party in the U.S.A., or any Communist organizations?"; "for about 9 months from Sept., 1932 to May, 1933, I was Secretary of the League of Professional Groups for FOSTER and FORD (after the 1932 election, the

League of Professional Groups. This was a collection of writers, artists, teachers, liberal and socialist, who tried to work in a kind of united front with the Communist Party. Most of them fought with the CP hacks (BROWDER and HATHAWAY especially, almost from the beginning. Much of my knowledge of Communist ideas and tactics, which would be useful in this job, was obtained during this period. I resigned and denounced the CP in May, 1933."

The Communist Party has been declared within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

"New Masses" was described as a "Communist periodical" by Attorney General FRANCIS BIDDLE, as set forth in the Congressional Record on September 4, 1942.

Report dated March 29, 1944 of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities describes "New Masses" as the "national circulated weekly journal of the Communist Party, whose ownership is vested in the American Fund for Public Service.

"Where Life is Better", copyrighted in 1936, is the only book by RORTY reviewed by the writer. A chapter in this book entitled "Bread and Butter Letter" consisted in its entirety of a letter from RORTY to "Mr. ROBERT WARE, Sheriff of Imperial County, (the lowest down sheriff's office in the world) El Centro, Calif.", which has as a salutation "Dear Comrade Ware." This letter was apparently written as a result of RORTY's having been in the El Centro jail during a strike of lettuce packers in 1934, which RORTY allegedly was duly authorized to cover as a Journalist for two publications. The following statement appears on page 318: "You are convinced, Comrade Ware, that I was a Revolutionary, a Communist. I appreciate the compliment, I assure you, but in all fairness I must decline it. I am not a member of the Communist Party, or the Workers' Party, or of any other revolutionary group."

The following statement appears on page 320: "I was exactly what I described myself to be: a writer employed, at the moment, to do a particular job of reporting. Over and above that, I was a United States citizen, holding racial and social views to which I was fully entitled, under the law, to hold and express. I happen to believe that a writer owes a responsibility to the written word which he cannot violate without stultifying himself and destroying his usefulness to civilization and I am convinced that at present,

and for the immediate future, an American writer cannot fully discharge that responsibility if he accepts the discipline of any existing revolutionary party or the implicit bribes involved in the acceptance of most of the well paid literary employment offered to him under Capitalism.

"At various times I have attempted to aid and support the activities of the Communist Party, the Workers' Party, and the Socialist Party and shall continue to do so, but not at the sacrifice of my particular function, which is to tell the truth as I see it. Telling the truth means, for instance, telling that the Communist Party does not always tell the truth. It means repudiating the lie as a tactic, whether used by Capitalists, Fascists, Socialists or Communists, or whatever faction.

"Do I make myself clear, Comrade Ware? I have made myself very clear to the Communist Party, for many of whose members and sympathizers I have great respect, although I disagree profoundly with many of their politics and tactics. For this I have been denounced in the Communist press as 'counter-revolutionary, potential Fascist', etc. - factional canards that no intelligent person takes seriously, not even their Party disciplined authors. They have not deterred me from continuing to point out that the 'ends-justify-the-means' philosophy to validate such tactics is not truly Communistic but fanatical, Jesuitical and highly dangerous to the building of a sound revolutionary movement.

"By this time, Comrade Ware, I imagine you are pretty much bewildered. You are asking - Why build a revolutionary movement at all? Because the utter bankruptcy and chaos of the Capitalist economy and the Capitalist culture is, in my opinion, imminent. It is therefore necessary to erect the scaffolding of a revolutionary receivership that will be strong enough, and sound enough, and honest enough to take over the bankruptcy and exercise sanely and creatively the power that the logic of events will ultimately place in its hands.

"It is not true that revolutionaries destroy the State power, Comrade Ware. Social revolutionaries can and do take power only when the Capitalist State destroys itself, when power and responsibility are to be had almost for the asking, and when only revolutionaries have enough moral and intellectual integrity left to essay the gigantic task of reconstruction."

The Workers' Party of America has been declared within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

An article entitled "To a 'Friend of the Soviets' " by JAMES RORTY in the Commonwealth Magazine of January 10, 1947 is the only article by RORTY reviewed by the writer. In this article, RORTY admonishes an American citizen for apparently accepting and believing "Communist propaganda" and as becoming a functioning part of the "disposable apparatus of Communist propaganda and pressure in this country". In this article, RORTY concluded that he quite definitely knows this individual to be misinformed and deceived.

REFERENCE

7-41-
ISAAC DON LEVINE, 3029 Cambridge Place, N.W., advised he has known the applicant well for eight years although he possibly met him for the first time approximately twenty-five years ago. He said he became well acquainted with RORTY in approximately 1943, when RORTY collaborated with and assisted RUTH MITCHELL, the sister of General BILLY MITCHELL, in the editing of a book about Yugoslavia. LEVINE said this book was strongly "anti-Tito", explaining he meant it was strongly "anti-Communist." LEVINE added that RORTY recently completed an article concerning race riots at Peekskill, New York which was also strongly "anti-Communist". LEVINE stated that the publication "Plain Truth" has published several articles written by RORTY. He stated that RORTY is "well marked" in his writings as an "anti-Communist", and that during his close acquaintance with RORTY during the past eight years, he has found him to be consistently "anti-Communist". He stated RORTY is very honest, sincere, and he has no hesitation in recommending him for a position of trust with the Government. He added that he knows nothing unfavorable concerning RORTY.

Relating to the identity of ISAAC DON LEVINE, The Hearings Regarding Communist Espionage in the U.S. Government, 80th Congress, before the Committee on Un-American Activities, reflects that on December 8, 1948 ISAAC DON LEVINE described himself in testimony as a writer and editor, having written books dealing with the history of the Russian Revolution. He stated that since October, 1946, he has

edited an "anti-Communist and anti-Fascist political review of strong liberal, true liberal tendencies" named "Plain Talk". He further advised he arranged for an interview of JAY WHITTAKER CHAMBERS on September 2, 1939 with ADOLPH BERLE, the Assistant Secretary of State, and accompanied CHAMBERS when CHAMBERS related to BERLE his knowledge of persons in the United States Government who were Communists or has Communists sympathies.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following information was received in 1942:

T-1 became acquainted with RORTY through her husband who had gone to school with RORTY; T-1's family and RORTY's family both later lived in Connecticut and visited one another on widely separated occasions; T-1 stated that she did not know where RORTY worked during this period, which was during the early 1930's, but he worked for the Communist Party, presumably out of New York at one time. T-1 stated this information was secured from her husband and she does not know where her husband secured the information; T-1 stated she was never very friendly with RORTY and knew nothing of his personal life. T-1 stated she later moved to Washington, D. C. and that during the Winters of 1941 and 1942, RORTY made frequent trips to Washington on business, although she did not know with whom the business was related. RORTY had little money at that time and T-1 permitted him to stay in her home in order to reduce expenses. RORTY stated during this time that he believed the "New Order" would work in Europe and, although he was careful not to say whether he sympathized with the "New Order of Germany", his whole attitude and implications were that he did favor it. In February, 1942, RORTY made statements to T-1 "against the Roosevelt family" and said that they had been fostering Communism in this country, and that the Communists would soon have the country under their control which will be a national calamity. T-1 replied to this statement by saying that she thought RORTY was a Communist, and he said he was never a Communist but only worked for the Communist Party.

Confidential informant T-1 was currently recontacted and stated she could furnish no additional pertinent information concerning the applicant's loyalty to the United States. T-1 stated her husband is not available for interview due to his presently being in Germany. She stated that in 1942 she came to the conclusion that the applicant sympathized with the Nazi regime in Germany, although he had previously

WFO 101-2622

indicated that he had been employed by the Communist Party. She said that she had no faith in the integrity of any individual whose sympathies varied to that extent and, for that reason, she could not recommend him for a position of trust with the Government. She added that she has not seen the applicant since 1942.

The files of the Washington Police Department contained a copy of a letterhead, dated July 19, 1933, of the "National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners." The name of JAMES RORTY was included on this letterhead under the heading "National Committee".

National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners has been declared as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The files of the Washington Police Department contain no additional pertinent information concerning JAMES RORTY not otherwise set forth in this report.

The files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities contain card records reflecting that one JAMES RORTY contributed to the publication "The Liberator" in issues for July, 1922, June, 1923, September, 1923, February, 1924, and June, 1924.

The report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, dated June 25, 1942, describes "The Liberator" as a "Communist magazine".

Files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities also contain a card record reflecting that one JAMES RORTY was a contributor to the issue dated May 5, 1922 of the "Voice of Labor".

A report of the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, dated April 1, 1947, describes the "Voice of Labor" as the "official organ of the Workers' Party of America."

The files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities contain issues of the publication, "New Masses", for September, 1927, June, 1928, and July, 1932. The name of JAMES RORTY is listed as a contributing editor in the issue of June, 1928, and as a contributor in the issues of September, 1927 and for July, 1932.

"New Masses" and the Workers' Party of America have previously been described in this report.

The files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities include Appendix IX, "Communist Front Organizations," of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, 78th Congress. On page 1000 of Appendix IX, there is included a pamphlet entitled "Culture and the Crisis" published in 1932 for the League of Professional Groups for FOSTER and FORD, in which "support in the national election to the Communist Party and its candidates, WILLIAM Z. FOSTER and JAMES W. FORD", was pledged. The name of one JAMES RORTY is included in a list of names in this pamphlet beneath the above mentioned pledge.

Files of the Civil Service Commission and G-2, Department of the Army, contain no additional pertinent information concerning the applicant not otherwise set forth in this report.

The files of the Passport Division, Department of State, reflect that passport number NY 21871 was issued to JAMES HANCOCK RORTY on December 22, 1950. Application for this passport reflects that he was born on March 30, 1890 at Middletown, New York; that he intended to depart from New York on January 5, 1951 for travel to Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. The application reflects the purpose of this travel to be "business and writing report for United Fruit Company", and that the travel will extend for a period of two months. No unfavorable information was noted in the file.

Confidential informant T-2, of unknown reliability, advised that a "Hunger March" to Washington, D. C. was staged in December, 1932 in which part of the participants were members and organizers of the Communist Party. T-2 stated that the members of the League of Professional Groups, previously mentioned in this report, handled publicity and other matters in connection with the "March". He said that the Secretary of the League of Professional Groups, JAMES RORTY, appealed to the participating marchers to keep notes of happenings during the "March". He added that JAMES RORTY was in Washington, D. C. after the marchers reached Washington, D. C.

The files of the Credit Bureau contained no record of RORTY.

Confidential informant T-3, of known reliability, who was for some years extremely active in the affairs of the Communist Party and has a personal knowledge of many national and local Communists, advised that RORTY is not known to him as a member of the Communist Party.

Confidential informants T-4, T-5, and T-6, of known reliability, who are conversant with the activities of the Communist Party in this area, advised that they could furnish no information concerning RORTY.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

It is noted that reference Bureau letter reflects that the name of JAMES RORTY appears in Dies Committee Report Number one, pages 380 and 530. The information on page 380 is the same information as set forth in the details of this report from Appendix IX from HCUA. The information on page 530 is not considered pertinent for insertion in the details of this report since it reflects that the name of JAMES RORTY is included on a committee which is listed therein as affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union.

It is noted that the report of Special Agent THOMAS G. SPENCER, dated May 11, 1949 at New York, New York, entitled in part "JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, Perjury, Espionage - R, reveals that CHAMBERS advised Special Agent THOMAS G. SPENCER in 1949 that he would describe JAMES RORTY as being "some kind of left of center liberal, and I would not think that he was too far left of center....It is also my impression that he is anti-Communist."

It is noted that Bureau letter dated June 17, 1942, entitled "JAMES RORTY, Internal Security, Hatch Act", reflects that Dr. RAY DAVIS, of the Smithsonian Institution, furnished information to the Bureau to the effect that RORTY had made a number of inflammatory and radical statements which were extremely pro-Russian and, at the same time, critical of the United States. These statements were allegedly made in the home of T-1. This information was not set forth in the details of this report since Bureau letter dated June 17, 1942 reflects he declined to give the exact content of RORTY's statements, advising that T-1 had made careful note of the statements.

T-1 currently advised that Dr. RAY DAVIS is a Professor at an unknown university on the Pacific Coast and she does not know his present address. T-1 also currently advised that RORTY did not make "pro-Russian" statements or statements critical of the United States at the dinner party in 1942, which Dr. DAVIS attended, but instead was "anti-Communist" at that time.

T-1 advised she did not desire to furnish a signed statement or appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board. This information was not placed in the details of this report since it was not considered pertinent inasmuch as she furnished no substantive loyalty information concerning RORTY which did not appear in the book entitled "Where Life is Better" as set forth in this report.

Credit Bureau was checked by Special Employee [redacted]
Passport Division was checked by Special Employee [redacted]

b6
b7C

WFO 101-2622

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

b6
b7C
b7D

T-1 - [redacted] who currently advised that her husband is employed by the State Department in Germany, and who requested that her identity not be divulged.

T-2 - Reports relating to the "Hunger March" incidents dated in December, 1932, photostatic copies of which were furnished to this office by the Bureau in instant case.

T-3 - [redacted] as contacted by Special Agent [redacted]

T-4 - [redacted] as contacted by Special Agent [redacted]

T-5 - [redacted] as contacted by Special Agent [redacted]

T-6 - [redacted] as contacted by Special Agent JOSEPH KELLER.

b6
b7C
b7D

T-1 edited an "anti-Communist and anti-Fascist political review of strong liberal, true liberal tendencies" named "Plain Truth". He further advised he arranged for an interview of JAY WHITTAKER CHAMBERS on September 2, 1939 with ADOLPH PERLE, the Assistant Secretary of State, and accompanied CHAMBERS when CHAMBERS related to PERLE his knowledge of persons in the United States Government who were Communists or had Communist sympathies.

MISCELLANEOUS

During the portion of investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1942, confidential informant T-1, of unknown reliability, furnished the following information concerning the applicant:

T-1 became acquainted with RORTY through her husband who had gone to school with RORTY; T-1's family and RORTY's family both later lived in Connecticut and visited one another on widely separated occasions; T-1 stated that she did not know where RORTY worked during this period, which was during the early 1930's, but he worked for the Communist Party, presumably out of New York at one time. T-1 stated this information was secured from her husband and she does not know where her husband secured the information; T-1 stated she was never very friendly with RORTY and knew nothing of his personal life. T-1 stated she later moved to Washington, D. C. and that during the Winters of 1941 and 1942, RORTY made frequent trips to Washington on business, although she did not know with whom the business was related. RORTY had little money at that time and T-1 permitted him to stay in her home in order to reduce expenses. RORTY stated during this time that he believed the "New Order" would work in Europe and, although he was careful not to say whether he sympathized with the "New Order of Germany", his whole attitude and implications were that he did favor it. In February, 1942, RORTY made statements to T-1 "against the Roosevelt family" and said that they had been fostering Communism in this country, and that the Communists would soon have the country under their control which will be a national calamity. T-1 replied to this statement by saying that she thought RORTY was a Communist, and he said he was never a Communist but only worked for the Communist Party.

Confidential informant T-1 was currently recontacted and stated she could furnish no additional pertinent information concerning the applicant's loyalty to the United States. T-1 stated her husband is not available for interview due to his presently being in Germany. She stated that in 1942 she came to the conclusion that the applicant sympathized with the Nazi regime in Germany, although he had previously

SAC, LOS ANGELES
SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

February 25, 1951

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 30th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA

Re: San Diego letter to New York dated 12/26/50.

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copies of two letters or documents obtained on February 26, 1935 at El Centro, California at the time the applicant was arrested and held for investigation. These documents were furnished by the San Diego Division and printed under the letterhead of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, Room 439, Mills Building, San Francisco, California and dated February 1, 1935.

JAMES RORTY is one of the signers of the documents.

In substance, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense is acting in behalf of and soliciting funds for one NORMAN MINI, who was on trial in Sacramento in 1935 with seventeen other defendants on charges of violation of the California Criminal Syndicalism Act. It may be noted that on April 10, 1935 MINI was sentenced to one to fourteen years at San Quentin for conspiracy to commit criminal syndicalism. He was paroled April 28, 1936.

Informant has advised that MINI is presently lecturing under the auspices of DICK COOMBS, Counsel for the California Senate Un-American Activities Committee. COOMBS resides at 415 W. Race St., Visalia, California, and his offices are in Fresno, California, the exact address unknown.

The applicant was born March 30, 1890 at Middletown, New York. He has been variously employed as a newspaper correspondent, for the New York Post and the Nation, and as Editor of the New Masses. He has also been self-employed as a free-lance writer.

The Los Angeles Office is requested to locate MINI through DICK COOMBS, as mentioned above, and question him concerning his knowledge of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense or the applicant's degree of association with the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. Buded past.

JOI:mrw
125-1173 (Encl)
CC Bureau (125-7248)

INDEXED - 43

EX - 83

123-7248-20

NOT RECORDED
27 31

56 APR 10 1951

EX. - 83

RECORDED - 45 123-7248-21

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

March 10, 1951

Mr. Donald L. Nicholson
Chief, Division of Security
Department of State
515 Twenty-second Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka
JAMES RORTY, JAMES H. RORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 80th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA

Reference is made to my letter of February 21, 1951,
with enclosures.

There is transmitted herewith one report reflecting
the result of additional investigation on the above-named
individual.

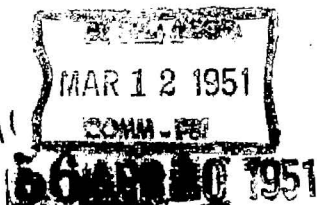
Report of Special Agent John C. Inkster, dated
February 24, 1951, at San Francisco, California.

Enclosure

JGS:pg

123-7248

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b6
b7C

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. **123-1173**

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE 2/24/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/4, 10, 15, 20, 22-24, 31; 2/5, 6-9, 12-17, 19/51	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> - st
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, Aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402; 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant advised JAMES RORTY, a newspaper correspondent, resided at 150 Franklin Street in 1935 and maintained offices at 1200 Washington Street. Owners of buildings have no records of RORTY and unable to recall. Document obtained at time of applicant's arrest in 1935 reflects Non-Partisan Labor Defense located 439 Mills Building, San Francisco. Non-Partisan Labor Defense, 439 Mills Building, San Francisco, issued appeal letter, February 1, 1935, endorsed by JAMES RORTY. No listing of NPLD or JAMES RORTY at Mills Building. One tenant and former custodian recalled Room 439 occupied by attorney AUSTIN LEWIS, now deceased. LEWIS described as associated with American Civil Liberties Union and TOM MOONEY Defense Committee. Western Worker article reflects NPLD defended individuals charged with violation of the Criminal Syndicalism Act at Sacramento in 1934 and 1935. One J. D. OSBORN, former local contact of applicant's, was described by informant in 1945 as long-time member of Communist League of America.

Handwritten:
RECEIVED 8-20-57
RECEIVED 8-30-57
BY *[Signature]*
Richard McKay
Rorty - Son

AGENCY **ICC-OSD**
REQ. REC'D **3-5-51**
REP'T FORW. **3-18-51**
BY *[Signature]*

RUC

Handwritten: E

EX - 83

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ - Bureau (123-7248) AMSD 1 - San Francisco <i>Handwritten:</i> ICC - <i>[Signature]</i>	123-7248-21 FEB 27 1951 <i>[Signature]</i>	RECORDED - 45 INDEXED - 45

SF 123-1173

REFERENCE: San Diego letter to New York dated 12/26/50.
New York Letter to Bureau dated 1/5/51.
Report of SA WILLIAM D. WHITNEY at San Francisco,
dated 12/19/50.

DETAILS:

San Francisco T-1, of known reliability, who is familiar with some phases of un-American activities in the San Francisco Bay Area, advised that one JAMES RORTY, a newspaper correspondent described as 44 years of age in 1935, resided at 150 Franklin Street, Apartment 205, and maintained an office at 1200 Washington Street.

HUGH McKEVITT, an attorney in the Russ Building, advised that he was formerly the owner of the apartment building at 150 Franklin Street in 1935. He stated he had no personal contact with the tenants and the name JAMES RORTY was unknown to him. He advised there were no records available which would reflect the former tenants in the building. He was unable to recall the name of the manager of the apartment building in 1935.

ERNST NUSSBAUM, owner and manager of the apartment at 1200 Washington Street since 1934, advised that this building has always been a residence apartment and there have never been any business offices located in the building. He reviewed the records for 1935 and there was no information pertaining to JAMES RORTY or the Non-Partisan Labor Defense (hereafter referred to as NPLD). Mr. NUSSBAUM was unable to recall the applicant personally or the NPLD.

The San Diego office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation advised that at the time applicant was arrested on February 26, 1935, at El Centro, California, he had in his possession several documents, one of which bore the letterhead of the "Non-Partisan Labor Defense, 439 Mills Building, San Francisco, California." One of the documents reflected that JAMES RORTY, 1200 Washington Street, San Francisco, was a member of the Executive Board of the NPLD.

Mr. J. K. CASSAD, building manager of the Mills Building, 250 Montgomery Street, advised that from a review of his tenant records

for the year 1935 it was reflected that Room 439 was occupied by an attorney, AUSTIN LEWIS. A further examination of his records revealed that AUSTIN LEWIS had occupied this office from 1931 to 1938. Mr. CASSAD advised that AUSTIN LEWIS is now deceased. The records failed to reveal any information pertaining to the Non-Partisan Labor Defense or to JAMES RORTY. It was noted that LOLA KENNEDY was an occupant of Room 429, Mills Building, in 1935.

LOLA KENNEDY, proprietor of the A-1 Stenographic Service, a long-time tenant in the Mills Building, advised that she recalled AUSTIN LEWIS as an attorney who had maintained offices in Room 439 in the Mills Building, 1935. She recalled that AUSTIN LEWIS was formerly associated with the American Civil Liberties Union and was active in the defense of TOM MOONEY. She was unable to recall the NPLD or JAMES RORTY.

Mr. CHARLES BERG, 240 Noe Street, a retired custodian of the Mills Building, recalled AUSTIN LEWIS as an attorney who maintained offices in Room 439 in the Mills Building, prior to his death. BERG recalled that AUSTIN LEWIS had been active in the TOM MOONEY defense. Mr. BERG was unable to recall the applicant or the NPLD organization.

T-1 advised that the Mooney-Billings Committee was organized in 1931 to obtain a pardon for THOMAS J. MOONEY and WARREN K. BILLINGS, who were convicted for the preparedness day bombing in San Francisco on July 22, 1916. T-1 advised that all the various committees organized in defense of MOONEY and BILLINGS were Communist inspired; however, non-Communists and some anti-Communist organizations, publications and individuals supported the efforts to secure a pardon for MOONEY and BILLINGS on the grounds they were convicted on "insufficient and unreliable evidence." Persons most active in their behalf were Communists and the case was used by the Communists as a rallying point during the period MOONEY and BILLINGS were in prison. The Committee was disbanded soon after their release from prison.

The Mooney-Billings Committee was cited as a Communist front group on Page 91 of the California Committee on Un-American Activities Report, 1943.

According to the Fourth Report of the Joint Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California, 1948, Page 153 reflects:

"The Daily Worker of June 25, 1936, Page 2, lists TOM MOONEY as a member of the Honorary Presidium of the Communist Party. His case was the center of world-wide Communist agitation."

The Daily Worker is an East Coast publication of the Communist Party.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated as a subversive organization by the Attorney General coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Relative to the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, T-1 advised that JAMES RORTY was a member of the NPLD in 1935 and T-1 recalled that the NPLD was active in the trial of eighteen individuals charged with violation of the California Criminal Syndicalism Act in Sacramento in 1934 and 1935. T-1 stated that he was not personally acquainted with JAMES RORTY, nor could he provide any information relative to the degree of association of RORTY with the NPLD. T-1 declined to give a signed statement or to appear before a loyalty hearing board.

T-1 advised that the Criminal Syndicalism Act, which later became a law in the State of California, was aimed primarily to thwart the revolutionary tactics of the INTERNATIONAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD, which organization appears on the list named by the Attorney General as being within the purview of Executive Order 9835. T-1 further advised that the act made it unlawful for any person or group of persons, by use of force or violence, or any other illegal means, to bring about or effect the change in industrial ownership or control, or to effect any political change by such means.

Relative to the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, an article appeared in the Western Worker issue of January 24, 1935, entitled, "Bail" and is quoted in part as follows:

"The warning published in two recent issues of the Western (apparent omission) against racketeers, who represent themselves as agents of the Sacramento defendants seeking to collect contributions and bail funds, in no way was meant to reflect on the American Civil Liberties Union or the Non-Partisan Labor Defense League.

"The Non-Partisan Labor Defense is defending NORMAN MINI who has affiliated himself with the Workers Party.

"The International Labor Defense is defending all the other seventeen workers involved in the Sacramento Criminal Syndicalism Case.

"Each organization is conducting an independent fund raising campaign. An agreement has been reached between the two organizations providing for cooperation in the courtroom by elimination of all controversial issues.

"Outside the courtroom both organizations participate in the Broad United Front Movement in defense of the Sacramento eighteen and for repeal of the Criminal Syndicalism Law."

The Workers Party and the International Labor Defense have been cited by the Attorney General as organizations coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

T-1 advised that ~~NORMAN~~ MINI, referred to above, was convicted of conspiracy to commit criminal syndicalism on April 10, 1935 at Sacramento and was sentenced to serve from one to fourteen years in prison.

A check of the San Francisco telephone directory for 1935, the Polk City Directories of San Francisco for the years 1930 to 1936, and the San Francisco Voter's Registration Bureau for the years 1932 to present, failed to reflect any listing for JAMES RORTY.

Another document obtained at the time of applicant's arrest in 1935, under the letterhead of "Communist League of America, 144 Second Avenue, New York, New York", dated September 21, 1934, is addressed to JAMES RORTY, Westport, Connecticut. This document contains a list of contacts of the Communist League of America throughout the country. On this list appears the name J. D. ~~OSBOR~~, 150 Franklin Street, San Francisco.

244
7/6
The records of the San Francisco Voter's Registration reflect an affidavit of registration of JAMES D. ~~OSBORN~~ dated September 24, 1934. This reflected that he resided at 150 Franklin Street, Apartment 205, San Francisco. His occupation was listed as bridgeman and his birthplace as Missouri. This affidavit reflected his intention to affiliate with one of the minor political parties. A subsequent affidavit of registration dated January 16, 1937, reflected that JAMES D. OSBORN of 1718 Yosemite Avenue, born in Missouri, employed as a

SF 123-1173

bridgeman, registered his intention to affiliate with one of the minor political parties.

San Francisco T-2, of known reliability, advised that ~~JAMES~~ OSBORN, 1718 Yosemite Avenue, attended the annual May Day celebration sponsored by the Socialists Workers Party held at the Socialist Workers Party headquarters, 1739 Fillmore Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, on May 1, 1945. JAMES OSBORN was introduced by the master of ceremonies and described as, "A comrade who is locally a member of the Communist League of America, who joined the Party in 1933 and who is, from the point of view of membership, the oldest member of the San Francisco branch."

A report by the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities, 75th Congress, Third Session, on House Resolution Number 282, Page 327, reflects that the Communist League of America is the American Section of the Fourth International set up by LEON BRONSTEIN(alias TROTSKY) Group of the Communist Party in Geneva, June 10, 1934.

The Socialist Workers Party has been cited by the Attorney General as an organization coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

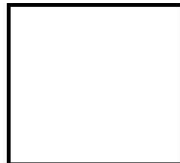
SF 123-1173

SOURCE PAGE

b7D

San Francisco T-1

San Francisco T-2



RECORDED - 45

22

March 15, 1951

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Mr. Donald L. Nicholson
Chief, Division of Security
Department of State
515 Twenty-second Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

100-55

JAMES HANCOCK RENTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 80th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA

Reference is made to my letter dated March 10, 1951
with enclosures.

There is transmitted herewith one report reflecting
the result of additional investigation on the above-named individual.

Enclosure

123-7248 *gm*
JGS:dz

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____

Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

137

100-55

100-55

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. 123-1173

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE 3/7/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/3,4,6/51	REPORT MADE BY LEON F. SCHWARTZ jb
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY, aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPT. Public Law 402; 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

NORMAN MINI, 2218 D Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California, furnished signed statement describing applicant as active in Non-Partisan Labor Defense, 1935. Organization described by MINI as formed with the assistance of the workers party to assist in MINI's defense. MINI feels sure that applicant was never a Communist Party member or a member of any Trotskyite group.

RUC

AGENCY *112-1173*
REC'D
REF'T FILE

REFERENCE: Report of SA at San Francisco 2/24/51
Los Angeles teletype to San Francisco 2/27/51.

DETAILS: The following investigation was conducted at Berkeley, California:

NORMAN MINI, 2218 D Bancroft Way, furnished the following signed statement:

I, NORMAN MINI, make the following statement to LEON F. SCHWARTZ who has identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. I am willing to appear before a Loyalty Hearing Board if necessary.

I joined the Communist Party in December 1932. In late 1934, while being tried at Sacramento, California, with seventeen other individuals on a charge of conspiracy to commit Criminal Syndicalism, I joined the Workers Party and was thereupon expelled from the Communist Party for Trotskyite sympathies.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3--Bureau (123-7248) (ALSD) 1--San Francisco	MAR 10 1951		RECORDED - 45 INDEXED - 45

I met JAMES RORTY in San Francisco, California, in early 1935 while I was out of jail on bail. He was taking part in the formation of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense which was an organization which had the support of the Workers Party and which was assisting in my defense because of my affiliation with the Workers Party. I understand the Non-Partisan Labor Defense was formed by HERBERT SCLOW of New York City who I know was a member of the Workers Party until about 1936 or 1937. Also active in my defense was the late AUSTIN LEWIS whom I knew as a prominent Socialist attorney who was affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union. It is my recollection that LEWIS and RORTY associated with each other in forming the Non-Partisan Labor Defense in San Francisco. However, I am sure that neither LEWIS nor RORTY were at that time members of the Workers Party or the Communist Party of any other Trotskyite or Stalinist group. Although I did not know RORTY very well, it is my recollection that he was the type of individual whose name appeared in the publications of various Communist front groups whose names I can not recall, but who was never a revolutionist to my knowledge.

RORTY left the San Francisco area during my trial in about March 1935 and I have not seen him since that time. I do not believe that he became affiliated with any Communist organization, either Stalinist or Trotskyite, inasmuch as I saw writings of RORTY appearing in the "New Leader" which was a publication which printed the writings of individuals who were neither Stalinists nor Trotskyites and which was often criticized by the Communist Party and Trotskyite groups.

I have read the above statement of approximately one and one-half pages and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

NORMAN MINI

Witnessed: LEON F. SCHWARTZ
SA FBI, San Francisco, 3/3/51.

-RUC-

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney
Director, FBI

March 21, 1951

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Attention: Mr. Archie D. Simpson

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY

Records Administrative Branch

SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

Public Law 402, 80th Congress

VOICE OF AMERICA

LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

For your information and in order that consideration might be given as to whether any Federal laws have been violated, there are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of the below listed reports, reflecting the results of an applicant type investigation conducted by this Bureau on the above-captioned individual.

Report of Special Agent John B. Bjorklund, Jr.,
dated February 6, 1951, at New York, New York.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
December 20, 1950, at Boston, Massachusetts.

Report of Special Agent Leon F. Schwartz, dated
March 7, 1951, at San Francisco, California.

Report of Special Agent Charles E. Kleinkauf,
dated January 2, 1951, at Newark, New Jersey.

Report of Special Agent Elson G. Hedges, dated
February 15, 1951, at Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
January 17, 1951, at Miami, Florida.

Report of Special Agent William D. Whitney,
dated December 19, 1950, at San Francisco,
California.

Report of Special Agent in Charge G. B. Norris, dated
December 22, 1950, at Chicago, Illinois.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
December 28, 1950, at Chicago, Illinois.

Report of Special Agent John W. Toedt, dated
December 22, 1950, at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Enclosure

JGS:pg

123-7248

Assistant Attorney General

Report of Special Agent Richard J. Doyle, dated
December 26, 1950, at San Diego, California.

Report of Special Agent James M. Tennant, dated
January 9, 1951, at New Haven, Connecticut.

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED], dated
February 24, 1951, at San Francisco, California.

b6
b7C

Photostatic copies of these reports have been forwarded
to the United States Civil Service Commission under the provisions
of Executive Order 9835.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL DELIVERY

FEB 23 1951

Mr. James E. Hatcher
Chief, Investigations Division
U. S. Civil Service Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Class 3

JAMES H. MOORE ROMNEY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 60th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Transmitted herewith for consideration under Executive Order 9835 are four photostatic copies of each of the below listed reports reflecting the results of investigation conducted by this Bureau in discharging its responsibilities under the provisions of Public Law 402, of the 60th Congress. It will be noted that these reports necessarily contain information concerning character and reputation, a type of information not ordinarily included in reports of investigation conducted pursuant to Executive Order 9835. No additional investigation will be conducted under the Loyalty Program unless specifically requested.

b6
b7C

Report of Special Agent John E. Bjorklund, Jr.,
dated February 6, 1951, at New York, New York.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
December 28, 1950, at Boston, Massachusetts.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
March 7, 1951, at San Francisco, California.

Report of Special Agent Charles E. Kleinkauf,
dated January 2, 1951, at Newark, New Jersey.

Report of Special Agent Elwyn G. Hodges, dated
February 15, 1951, at Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent [redacted], dated
January 17, 1951, at Miami, Florida.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Enclosure

123-7248

JGS:pg

EX - 136

71-GEORGE

24

Mr. James E. Hatcher

Report of Special Agent William D. Whitney,
dated December 19, 1950, at San Francisco,
California.

b6
b7C

Report of Special Agent in Charge G. E. Norris, dated
December 22, 1950, at St. Louis, Missouri.

Report of Special Agent [redacted]
dated December 23, 1950, at Chicago, Illinois.

Report of Special Agent John W. Woedt, dated
December 22, 1950, at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Report of Special Agent Richard J. Doyle, dated
December 26, 1950, at San Diego, California.

Report of Special Agent [redacted], dated
January 9, 1951, at New Haven, Connecticut.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
February 24, 1951, at San Francisco, California.

Please advise this Bureau of the ultimate disposition
which is made of this case.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

1953 11 23 AM 21
F B I
RECEIVED - NOV 21 1953

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

January 15, 1952

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAMES HANCOCK FORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 80th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Attention:
Mr. Archie D. Simpson
Records Administration Branch

Reference is made to my letter dated March 21, 1951, transmitting photostatic copies of reports of investigation conducted by this Bureau regarding captioned applicant.

I am transmitting herewith one additional photostatic copy of a report of Special Agent Dale M. Hiestand, dated December 12, 1951, at Newark, New Jersey.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Enclosure
123-7248
WBH:rlb



123-7248 -26
JAN 16 1952

15147

SAC, Newark (123-1494)

November 23, 1951

Director, FBI (123-7248)

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY
VOA

Rerep SA Charles E. Kleinkauf dated 1/2/51 at Newark in the captioned case. There is transmitted herewith an anonymous communication received by the Bureau on 11/14/51 which reads as follows: "James Rorty was a member of the Communist Party." This communication was postmarked at Flatbrookville, New Jersey. It is desired that you contact the postmaster at Flatbrookville, New Jersey in an effort to determine the identity of the writer of this communication in order that this individual may be interviewed regarding the applicant. A report should be submitted under the VOA character setting forth the details of the communication and the results of investigation.

Enclosure

LSK:mlm/dz

RECORDED - 96
EX-25

123-7248-27
JAN 29 1952
66

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM

NOV 26 1951

NOV 26 1951
COMM - FBI

70112 12-27-51
70112 11-3-52

RISK
G.C. 1511

LSK

65 FEB 1 1952

January 15, 1952

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Mr. James E. Hatcher
Chief, Investigations Division
U. S. Civil Service Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 80th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA

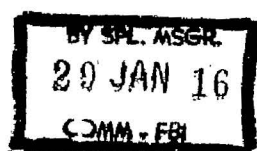
Reference is made to my letter dated March 23, 1951, transmitting photostatic copies of reports of investigation conducted by this Bureau regarding captioned applicant.

I am transmitting herewith four additional photostatic copies of the report of Special Agent Dale M. Hiestand, dated December 12, 1951, at Newark, New Jersey.

Enclosure

123-7248

WBH:rlb



19-WYSH
GEO WYSH
WYSH G

December 20, 1951

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Mr. Donald L. Nicholson
Chief, Division of Security
Department of State
515 Twenty-second Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED

69

29

JAMES HANCOCK RORTY
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT
Public Law 402, 80th Congress
VOICE OF AMERICA

Reference is made to my previous letters dated February 21, 1951, March 10, 1951, and March 15, 1951, transmitting a total of thirteen reports of investigation conducted by this Bureau concerning the above-named person.

There is transmitted herewith one additional report of investigation pertaining to applicant.

On September 24, 1951, the Loyalty Review Board, U. S. Civil Service Commission, furnished a disposition "Eligible on Loyalty."

Tolson_____
Ladd_____
Nichols_____
Belmont_____
Clegg_____
Glavin_____
Harbo_____
Rosen_____
Tracy_____
Mohr_____

closure

3- 7248

[rlb]



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 12-12-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-7, 10-51	REPORT MADE BY DALE M. HIESTAND ghk
TITLE JAMES HANCOCK RORTY Aka James Rorty, James H. Rorty			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA)
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Information of an anonymous communication set forth. Newark Confidential Informants unable to furnish any information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>REFERENCES: Report of SA CHARLES E. KLEINKAUF dated 1-2-51 at Newark. Bulet to Newark dated 11-23-51.</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>Miscellaneous</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">An anonymous communication postmarked Flatbrookville, N. J. and received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C. on 11-14-51 contained the following information: "James Rorty was a member of the Communist Party."</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Confidential Informant Newark T-1, a representative of another Governmental agency, was contacted in an effort to determine the identity of the writer of the above communication. She advised that she could furnish no information relative to the writer.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Confidential Informant Newark T-2 and Confidential Informant Newark T-3, of known reliability, who have in the past furnished much information concerning the members of the Communist Party in the State of N. J., have furnished no information concerning JAMES RORTY.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>A. R. McK...</i> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</div>		<div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 5px; right: 5px; font-weight: bold;">RECORDED</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 5px; left: 5px; font-size: small;"> PROPERTY OF FBI This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned. </div> </div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT au (123-7248) (Encl. 1) -k (123-1494)			

NK 123-1494

Confidential Informants Newark T-4, T-5, and T-6, of known reliability, who are acquainted with many of the members of the Communist Party in the State of New Jersey, advised that they do not know JAMES RORTY.

The Communist Party is an organization cited by the Attorney General of the U. S. as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

12-12-51
NK 123-1494

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

Newark T-1

[REDACTED]

Flatbrookville, N. J.

b6
b7C

Newark T-2

[REDACTED]

Newark T-3

[REDACTED]

b7D

Newark T-4

[REDACTED]

The informants T-2, T-3, and T-4 were contacted by SA GERHARD P. HUNDT on 12-7-51.

Newark T-5

[REDACTED]

Newark T-6

[REDACTED]

T-5 and T-6 were contacted by SA [REDACTED] on 12-7-51.

b6
b7C

ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU

Anonymous communication postmarked at Flatbrookville, N. J., received by the Bureau on 11-41-51 which reads as follows: "James Rorty was a member of the Communist Party" is transmitted herewith.

One Enclosures to Bureau
Newark File No. 123-1494
Dated 12-12-51

Enclosure

123-7248-29



F.B.I.

WASHINGTON
D.C.

123-7248-29

VOICE OF
AMERICA

123-7248-29

JAMES RORTY
WAS A MEMBER
OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓

DATE: December 1,
1954

FROM : L. B. Nichols

Tolson ✓
 Boardman ✓
 Nichols ✓
 Belmont ✓
 Glavin ✓
 Harbo ✓
 Rosen ✓
 Tamm ✓
 Tracy ✓
 Mohr ✓
 Winterrowd ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Holloman ✓
 Miss Gandy ✓

SUBJECT: JAMES HANCOCK RORTY
Information Concerning

Miss Margie Hines in the office of Jack Martin at the White House called. She indicated that Mr. Martin was interested in one James Hancock Rorty, an author. Martin had been advised that Rorty was affiliated with the Communist Party factions who were aiding the American Civil Liberties Union. At the same time, Rorty was claiming that he was a Taft Republican. A number of Ohio people were disturbed over the fact that an individual of Rorty's character and background would attempt to align himself with the reputation of the late Senator Taft. Miss Hines stated that Martin was anxious to find out what we knew about Rorty.

After checking, Miss Hines was advised on November 24, 1954, that we had investigated Rorty in 1950 and 1951 at the request of the Voice of America. It was indicated that he was one of the first editors of "New Masses" in the mid 1920's. It was further indicated that Rorty had reportedly supported William Z. Foster, a Communist Party candidate in 1932 National election. Miss Hines was also advised that Rorty served in 1932 and 1933 as Secretary of the League of Professional Clubs for William Z. Foster and that in 1936 he wrote his book, "Where Life Is Better," wherein he stated that he had at various times attempted to aid the Communist Party and the Workers Party despite the fact that he disagreed profoundly with their politics and tactics. He stated therein that the utter bankruptcy and chaos of the capitalistic culture and economy was imminent. Miss Hines was additionally advised that we knew of no actual Communist Party membership of Rorty; however, it was felt that Mr. Martin might be interested in the above information. She indicated appreciation.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

CDD:mbk

(2)

123-1118-30
124F49
154
INT